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Champion
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Recruitment company scores awards double

Store's helping hand for the needy

Big Lottery Fund grants for community projects

SEVEN community projects in the Ormskirk and Hesketh Bank area have been handed grants of more than £56,000 in total in the latest round of awards from the Big Lottery Fund.

They are among 121 beneficiaries of grants totalling almost £4 million across the North West announced by the fund on Tuesday, December 13.

Heading the local recipients is the Sporting Challenge charity, which aims to give people with additional needs the opportunity to participate in sporting activities. Their Activities for Adults with Learning Disabilities project has been awarded £10,000 to continue to provide a range of sporting activities to improve the health of adults with learning difficulties and increase their fitness and wellbeing.

Ormskirk and District Scouts have been granted £9,927 to help refurbish and upgrade the Scouts Community Hub premises which are used by a range of community groups and activities. This will ensure that the venue remains suitable for community groups to use and create a hub for an expanded range of activity in the area.

The Vision Venue project at Art For Their Sake Ltd in Ormskirk has received £9,820. This will help the group to construct a roundhouse shelter and expand their workshops using art to improve the lives of those living with disabilities, the disadvantaged and terminally ill.

The Burscough Community Hub's Confidence in Computing for All project has been awarded £6,055 to provide 50 weeks of IT sessions for the local community and the opportunity to increase skills and social activities.

A £5,261 grant will help the 'Be Heard, it all ads up' project at The Civic in Ormskirk to fund new equipment and increase usage and access to the volunteer-run venue for community activities.

Meanwhile the Warm in Winter programme of the parochial church council of Holy Trinity in Bickerstaffe has been handed £5,000 to purchase new heaters and replace the interior doors at their church. This means they will be able to provide more activities and events for the wider community throughout the year.

And the Outdoors Everyday project at Hesketh-with-Becconsall All Saints CE in Hesketh Bank has been handed £9,999 to renovate the outdoor play area of the school to create an all-year-round activity and extra-curricular learning area.

TRIO'S £10,000 BOOST FOR HEART CHARITY

Report by **Henry James**

A TRIO of pals from Skelmersdale have raised £10,000 to help Edge Hill University to continue offering free cardiac screening sessions by completing a sponsored five-day trek along the Inca Trail to Machu Picchu in Peru.

Fifty-two--year-old Mike Vella and friends Andy Carmichael, 51, and Alan Webb, 49, decided to tackle the 26-mile trail through the Andes in memory of local youngster Zac Taylor to raise money for the charity Cardiac Risk in The Young (CRY).

The 11-year-old, a keen goalkeeper whose family are close friends of Mike's, died in February this year after suffering from Wolff-Parkinson-White syndrome, a condition which causes the heart to beat unusually fast.

The Taylors also lost daughter Kesley to a heart condition.

Mike has been raising funds for CRY since a chance meeting three years ago with Maureen Marshall from Ormskirk whose 16-year-old son John, a talented footballer, died on the day he was due to sign for Everton FC, as a result of an undiagnosed heart problem.

Mike Vella (right) with Andy Carmichael and Alan Webb after completing the Inca Trail

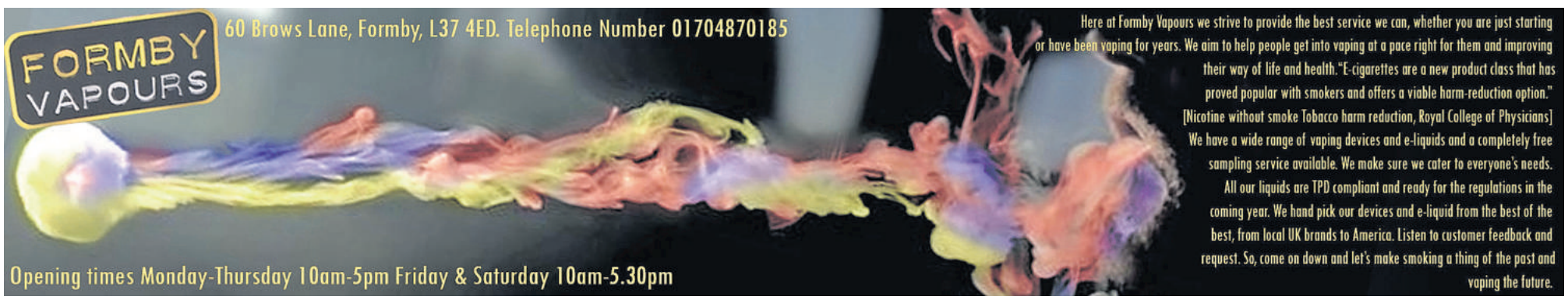
He said: "Three years ago I took my two children to get heart screenings and met a lady called Maureen Marshall. She informed me about Cardiac Risk in the Young (CRY), and told me about the sad loss of her son John.

"Maureen is a very special person who has given up thousands of hours to CRY to help prevent tragedies in our community, and she is truly an inspiration.

"We dedicated our trek to the memory of John Marshall, Zac and Kelsey Taylor, and Antony Webb - all local children who sadly died of undiagnosed heart defects."

Each week in the UK, at least 12 young

Continued inside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Council services festive season opening times

WEST Lancs Council have announced details of council services opening times over the Christmas and New Year period.

The council offices at Derby Street, Ormskirk and in Skelmersdale will close at noon on Friday, December 23 and re-open at 9am on Tuesday, January 3.

Services will operate as outlined below. Details can also be found at www.westlancs.gov.uk/christmas.

Customer services, telephone enquiries: The Customer Contact Centre will close at noon on Friday, December 23 and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday, January 3. The phone number remains the same for emergency calls when the offices are closed: 01695 577177.

Revenues and Benefit Service: The Revenues and Benefits Service will close at noon on Friday, December 23 and re-open at 8.30am on Tuesday, January 3. You can still make payments during this period by using the automated telephone payment line available 24 hours a day on 01695 585150 or by visiting the council's website at www.westlancs.gov.uk.

Emergency housing services: Emergency repairs will be carried out over the holiday period and tenants who require an emergency repair should telephone 01695 577177. For all other housing emergencies (including homelessness), please telephone the same number.

Refuse and recycling: Over the Christmas and New Year period your collection dates remain unaffected. For a copy of your collection calendar and more details on refuse and recycling collections over the festive period, visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/refuse.

Please note that all green bin collections will be suspended week commencing December 26 and week commencing January 2, but other materials for recycling will be collected.

Chapel Gallery: The Chapel Gallery will be closed from noon on Saturday, December 24 and will re-open on Tuesday, January 3.

Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk will close at noon on Saturday, December 24 and re-open on Tuesday, January 3

Beacon Park Golf Centre: The Beacon Park Golf Centre will be closed on Christmas Day and New Year's Day. Reduced opening times will be in operation over the festive period. For further information telephone 01695 625551.

Car parks - pay and display: Car parking will be free of charge on all council-managed pay and display car parks on Monday, December 26, Tuesday, December 27 and Monday, January 2.

Ormskirk Market: There will be a market as normal in Ormskirk town centre on Saturday, December 24 and Saturday, December 31. However, they will finish earlier than usual on the day. There will also be an extra market on Wednesday, December 21.

West Lancashire Community Leisure Trust: Reduced opening times will be in operation over the festive period. Contact individual centres for further details - Banks Leisure Centre tel. 01704 212970; Nye Bevan Pool 01695 727111; Park Pool 01695 576325; Burscough Racquet and Fitness Centre 01704 895266 - or visit www.westlancsleisure.com.

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Council concern over health care contracts

Report by **Henry James**

THE Labour group on West Lancs Council has expressed "concern" about the decision by the West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning group to award the contract to provide urgent care and community health services in the borough to Virgin Care.

Councillor Kevin Wright, the portfolio holder for health and community safety, included a motion on behalf of the group at the full meeting of the council on Wednesday (December 14) prompted by the announcement that billionaire Richard Branson's healthcare group will take over the services from April 1, 2017.

The combined contract for the two services is estimated to be worth about £13 million per annum (£9m for community health and £4m for urgent care).

Cllr. Wright's motion stated: "That this council notes with concern the intention of West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group to proceed towards contract with the profit-making company Virgin Care Ltd. for the delivery, from April 2017, of both urgent care and community health service, which to this point have been provided on a non-profit basis from within the NHS.

"That this council is concerned that, over time, health services contracted to a profit-making company such as Virgin Care Ltd. may become degraded, with consequent negative effect for the people of West Lancashire, given the inherent conflict of interest between the contractual requirement to deliver services and the primary requirement of a private company to deliver returns to the shareholders of Virgin Care Ltd. which is majority owned by the Virgin Group Ltd. conglomerate.

"Further, that this council is concerned that, over time, and for the same 'profit before people' rationale, the terms and conditions of staff currently operating within the NHS, and indeed their continued employment, may be compromised, with unjust contract changes imposed following due TUPE process, for 'economic, technical and organisational (ETO)' reasons which may not have been made clear during the tendering process."

The motion calls on the chief executive of the council to write to the chief executives of both West Lancashire CCG and Virgin Care Ltd., to "demand that the contracting process be carried out with full transparency" and with West Lancs Council afforded full opportunity to consult and make recommendations on the final contract before it is signed by both parties.

A spokesperson for the NHS West Lancashire Clinical Commissioning Group (CCG) said: "We note the motion raised by Cllr. Wright and acknowledge the concerns. We will fully participate and liaise with the council once this query is raised directly with the CCG.

"This procurement process has followed national procurement guidance to date and continues to do so.

"National procurement legislation requires the CCG to receive bids from organisations within both the NHS and independent sector.

"The CCG reports regularly to NHS England which remains assured of this procurement process.

"Importantly, as incumbent staff are already aware, we can confirm that all staff transferring to Virgin Care will continue to receive their existing NHS terms and conditions. All services commissioned within this process will continue to be delivered as part of the NHS and will remain free at the point of contact."

A spokesperson for Virgin Care added: "We are really pleased to have been selected to deliver the local vision for urgent and community care across West Lancashire. We look forward to continuing our engagement with the local community so we can provide a high-quality service that has been shaped by the people who use it."

Trio's Inca Trail trek raises £10,000 for heart charity

From Page 1

people die of undiagnosed heart conditions.

Edge Hill, where Maureen Marshall works in the catering department, is trying to help reduce this figure by bringing a mobile medical test centre into the university each year to carry out free testing in an attempt to raise awareness and identify young people at risk.

To date Mike, Andy Alan's latest efforts have raised £10,000 for the fund.

Talking about the trek, Mike added: "It was the hardest thing I have ever done but the sense of achievement when I hit the summit was fantastic.

"The scenery was stunning and the view from when we finally reached Machu Picchu will stay with me forever. "

Pensioners' party time

IT was tuck in, eyes down and then on with the dancing shoes when the West Lancashire Pensioners Forum held their annual Christmas party.

The event at the Briars Hall Country House Hotel in Lathom featured a meal, followed by entertainment including bingo and a disco.

Pictured at the party (above) are Margaret Boulton, chair of the West Lancs Pensioners Forum, treasurer, Jim Bevan and organiser Veronica Prescott, with Dean and Jan from Briars Hall.

Pals' fundraiser for Teenage Cancer Trust

PALS Joe Murphy and Mark Dilley are organising Christmas markets at Burscough Cricket Club to raise money for the Teenage Cancer Trust in support of 19-year-old Hannah Lyson from Ormsirk who has bowel cancer.

The markets will be held on Friday, Saturday and Sunday, December 16, 17, and 18, starting at noon each day.

There will be a wide selection of food, themed bars, carol singing around the Christmas tree, the chance to meet Santa and his elves and the opportunity to post your letter to Santa. There will also be reindeer food making.

Anyone wanting a stall at the markets can call 07870500035 or for more information log on to burscoughchristmasmarkets.eventbrite.co.uk.

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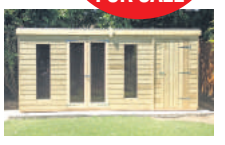

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Open invite to church Nativity

CHURCHES Together in Hesketh Bank and Tarleton are inviting members of the public to go along and join in their Real Nativity event featuring Christmas carols on Friday, December 16.

This starts with carol singing at 5pm at Booths in Station Road, Hesketh Bank before moving on to the grounds of All Saints Church from 6 to 8pm.

Refreshments, including mince pies, soup and rolls will be served.

For more information, call 01704 226724 or email dickinson-rev@aol.com.

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New Christmas tree helps brighten up hospital grounds

A NEW Christmas tree has been installed outside Ormskirk Hospital's accident and emergency - courtesy of a generous supplier.

Following comments that the original tree was looking a bit worse for wear, Barrington Landscapes of Hoghton near Preston stepped in to supply the new cut tree which now stands lit outside the main entrance.

Hospital chiefs explained that the previous, rooted tree, which was also donated, had failed to thrive over the years because of the quality of the soil in the land surrounding the hospital building.

Before the new tree had been installed, Champion reader Cheryl Finch from Scarisbrick had been shocked by the condition of the previous tree when taking her mum for an X-ray at the hospital and wrote to us (Letters, December 7) calling for a replacement.

She wrote: "I couldn't believe how bad the Christmas tree is, half of it is dying and the rest is neither use nor ornament. I realise the tree may have been kindly donated, but surely the hospital should have a much nicer main tree!"

Hospital trust spokesman, Tony Ellis, said: "The new tree is a kind gift to make to the hospital, its patients and visitors. We're very grateful to Barringtons for their generosity."

Right: The new Christmas tree outside Ormskirk Hospital's accident and emergency department

MP encourages tenants to apply for council insurance scheme

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper is encouraging council tenants in the borough to apply for the tenancy insurance policy to protect their homes from threats such as flooding now that the council's IT system is up and running.

In July, Rosie raised concerns with the council after constituents complained the authority was not accepting new applications for the insurance policy due to technical problems.

Now the IT issues have been resolved, she is urging council tenants to apply to ensure their homes are properly insured, especially with the cold and wet weather closing in.

Rosie Cooper said: "As we have seen with the 2015 Boxing Day floods and in June this year, we don't know when incidents will hit people's homes causing serious damage. "It is important council tenants have adequate and appropriate insurance so they are properly protected. Now the IT issues have been fixed residents should contact the borough council and take out this insurance policy if they need it."

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Staff praise villagers' support after blaze at historic pub

STAFF at a historic pub have thanked the local community for support following a devastating fire last week and say it will reopen as soon as possible.

The blaze tore through the thatched roof of the Scotch Piper in Lydiate on Tuesday, December 6 with firefighters tackling the flames for more than seven hours.

It's the second time in the space of two months that the thatched roof of the pub, believed to be the oldest in Merseyside, has caught fire after a previous incident in October.

Bar manager, Roy Copplestone, told the Champion: "The Scotch Piper will reopen but until all the amenities have been fully checked and safety measures have been put in place we won't know the time scale.

Report by **Tom Martin**

"I would like to thank members of the community for their great response and offers of help."

Firefighters say that the entire thatched roof was damaged in the fire, which occurred at around 3.30pm, but thankfully no one was injured.

The flames and smoke were so bad that Southport Road had to be partially cordoned off by police.

Officers have said there are no suspicious circumstances surrounding the fire.

Firefighters tackle the fire on the Scotch Piper's roof, above and top.
Pictures by Joe Kelsall

Local resident Dave Hughes said: "It was upsetting when the roof on the gabled end caught alight in October and now the thatched roof is completely destroyed. It is truly heartbreaking to see it in such a sorrowful state."

The Scotch Piper building dates back to 1320 and has been in use as a pub since the 15th century.

Councillors Moran and Julie Gibson (first and second left) with fellow Labour councillors supporting National Postal Workers Day

Councillors celebrate 'Posties' Day

WEST Lancs Council leader, Councillor Ian Moran and County Councillor Julie Gibson showed their support for National Postal Workers Day on Monday, December 12.

The day highlights the vital role played by postmen and women in communities across the UK delivering to 29 million addresses, six days a week, 52 weeks a year.

Cllr. Moran and Cllr. Gibson, who represents Skelmersdale West on Lancashire County Council, are both postal workers based at the Skelmersdale and Ormskirk delivery offices respectively.

They said: "National Postal Workers Day is a chance for businesses and customers across the UK to thank their local postmen and postwomen for their efforts across the year.

"As working posties and councillors we know that the run-in to Christmas is always our busiest time of year and the extra work performed by our colleagues to provide a first-class service to all residents and businesses in West Lancashire. This is a day to celebrate that."

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'Pay-to-stay' u-turn "good news" for West Lancs council tenants, says housing chief

BOROUGH housing chiefs have welcomed the government's decision to scrap plans to force those who earn over £31,000 a year to pay more in rent for their homes as good news for council tenants in West Lancashire.

Proposals were announced earlier this year to introduce a 'pay to stay' scheme for council tenants from April 2017. This could have meant people current council tenants in West Lancs who earned more than £31,000 would have had to pay increased rents, possibly up to levels in the private housing market.

It is estimated that up to 1,700 council tenants in the borough could have been affected. The new rules would have applied to all tenants except those receiving housing benefit or universal credit. There would have been no exemption for pensioners.

However, the government has decided not to bring this plan into force in that form after reviewing the proposals.

Councillor Jenny Patterson, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for housing and landlord services, said: "It's good news for our current tenants that this scheme will not proceed. Many of them could have faced having to pay increased rent to stay in council accommodation and this increase would have gone to government and not been re-invested locally."

Store's helping hand for needy at Christmas

WEST Lancs MP Rosie Cooper has praised staff and customers at Tesco in Burscough for holding a food collection for those in need this Christmas.

The Neighbourhood Food Collection ran from Thursday to Saturday, December 1 to 3 when staff at the store in Liverpool Road North teamed up with charities, FareShare and Trussell Trust, to enable shoppers to donate long-life food to help people in need. These were then 'topped up' by Tesco.

Rosie Cooper said: "The kind and generous donations made by West Lancashire shoppers, Tesco staff and Tesco themselves are a lifeline for so many others. Every can and meal donated will make a real difference, especially at this time of year.

"Thanks to everyone who donated and to Tesco for their support in collecting the food and topping up all these donations."

Lindsey Crompton, head of community at Tesco, said: "This is the ninth time we have run the Neighbourhood Food Collection and the generosity of our customers every time is outstanding."

Rosie Cooper with Tesco staff and foodbank volunteers and some of the donations made

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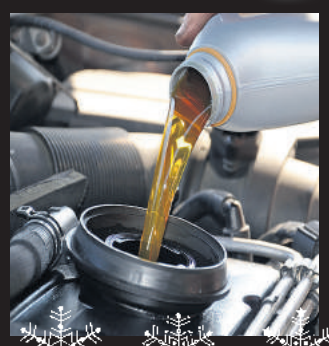

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Victims of domestic abuse urged: 'Don't suffer in silence - help is available'

Report by **Henry James**

Help is available for victims of domestic abuse

ALTHOUGH Christmas is a time of great joy and celebrations for many people, for sufferers of domestic abuse it can be a time when their recurring nightmare becomes even worse.

However, the West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership (WLCSP) is sending a message to victims that help is available for those suffering during the festive period.

In December 2015 and January 2016 a total of 71 crimes were reported as domestic abuse in West Lancashire.

Meanwhile, between January and September 2016 the West Lancashire Multi-Agency Risk Assessment Conference heard 137 high risk cases of domestic abuse.

And 823 women, 180 children and 128 men were referred to the Liberty Centre (West Lancashire) between January and early December 2016. The centre was unable to accept a further 48 women and 59 children into its refuge as there was no room at that time.

Anyone who is forced to alter their behaviour because they are frightened of their partner's reaction is being abused. Research has shown that abuse can happen at any stage of a relationship and is very rarely a 'one-off'. One in four women will suffer from domestic abuse at some stage in their lives.

In 50% of domestic violence cases, children can get hurt too, either by being subjected to violence themselves or witnessing it.

Councillor Kevin Wright, West Lancs Council's portfolio holder for health and community safety, said: "If you are reading this and think you are a victim of domestic abuse, or you think someone else may be a victim, please talk to someone you trust. Or you can call the police, or the Liberty Centre or a national helpline."

West Lancashire police inspector June Chessell said: "We will act to bring perpetrators to justice whenever we can and will work with our partner agencies to support victims to leave abusive relationships."

In November WLCSP joined the Liberty Centre (West Lancashire) to launch the innovative social media campaign 'Make the call. Don't be a bystander' encouraging people who believe a friend, relative or colleague is suffering domestic violence, to get support, advice or assistance.

The Liberty Centre has a free confidential 24-hour helpline number 0808 100 3062 which is open to callers over the Christmas period and the centre's confidential counselling and legal advice services for victims will open every day except the bank holidays.

A full service will be provided throughout the festive period at the West Lancashire Women's Refuge which offers short-term emergency accommodation.

Eleanor Maddocks, chief executive of the Liberty Centre, said: "Domestic Violence does not stop because it's Christmas. The Christmas period which is meant to be a time of happiness and joy is often the most difficult time for them."

For those victims of domestic violence or abuse who prefer not to use the phone, they can now contact The Liberty Centre via via www.facebook.com and www.thelibertycentre.org.uk.

The Broken Rainbow national helpline numbers for lesbian, gay, bisexual and transgender people are 0800 999 5428, and 0300 999 5428. The police can be contacted on their non-emergency number 101 and specify your location, or in an emergency ring 999.

David Tilleray, West Lancashire Community Safety Partnership chairman, added: "Domestic abuse is a crime. We want victims to know they are not alone and if they approach those services that can help them, their complaints will be handled with care by people sympathetic to what they are going through."

For more details about services available to people suffering domestic violence visit www.westlancs.gov.uk/domesticviolence.

Christmas concert date for borough's civic couple

MAYOR of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage, and her consort, Councillor Noel Delaney, will attend the Ormskirk Music Society Christmas Concert at St John the Baptist Church in Liverpool Road North, Burscough at 7.20pm on Saturday, December 17.

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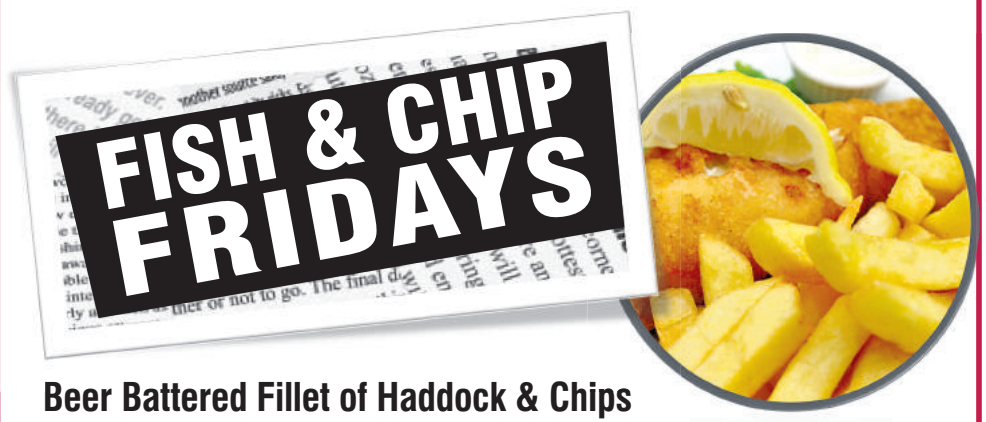

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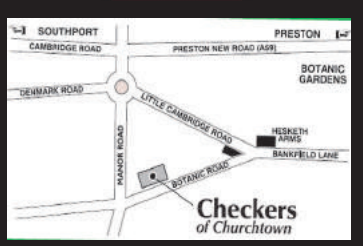

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Director, Matthew Link and Steven Ecott of Carefree 247 receive their Care Business of the Year award from Ted Robbins and Agnes Fitzgerald of Agnes Fitzgerald Marketing. Picture by Don't Panic and Ray Farley Photography

Recruitment firm's double-up at small business awards

A HEALTHCARE recruitment company based in Ormskirk have bagged two awards at this year's Federation of Small Business Merseyside, West Cheshire and Wigan Awards.

Carefree 247, established in 2014, scooped the Care Business of the Year award and Customer Service award beating stiff competition from across the region.

The awards were handed out on the night by comedian and star of Peter Kay's Phoenix Nights, Ted Robbins.

Carefree 247 are a recruitment agency who provide jobs for nurses and healthcare assistants in the region. They work with hospitals, walk-in centres, HM prisons and district nursing services.

Steven Ecott, marketing assistant for Carefree 247, commented: "It's great to have the hard work and dedication of all our office and field staff recognised, and a brilliant way to end the year. We've grown so much in 2016, and 2017 is shaping up to be very exciting for everyone involved in the business."

The FSB Merseyside, West Cheshire and Wigan Award winners are determined by an expert panel of judges, who all have a wealth of experience and knowledge from within the world of business.

Wet Fish, Ormskirk - made up of marketing and computing students from Edge Hill University - were also highly commended in the FSB Connect Entrepreneur Discovery category.

They have created a card game, targeted at 18 to 35-year-olds, which encourages social interaction.

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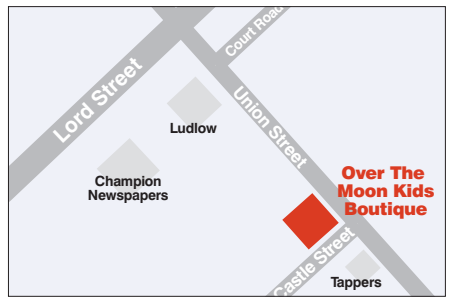

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WWT

Martin Mere news

ADVERTISING FEATURE

Last chance to see Celebrity Dusty Ducks this Christmas

Thousands and thousands of visitors have enjoyed looking at a very different type of duck, designed by the world-famous Aardman studios, at WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre. Dusty Duck arrived in mid-October at WWT Martin Mere and he has become a very popular attraction – but there is only a few weeks left to come and see him before he flies off to WWT Arundel on 9 January.

And it's not just one Dusty that has been appearing at Martin Mere - there are 14 GIANT 6 ft Dusty Ducks for the public to discover on a special trail, each designed by a celebrity, including a range of CBBC and CBeebies stars based at Salford's media city.

These are:
- Justin Fletcher - Pirate Justy Dusty
- Steve Backshall - Explorer Dusty
- Smarked (CBBC's Sam and Mark) - Tiger Dusty
- Matthew Baynton (Horrible Histories)- Sir Quackalot Dusty
- Naz Mogra (Newsround) - Supergirl Dusty
- Barney Harwood (Blue Peter) - Monster Onesie Dusty

Other celebrity designers include:
- Joanna Lumley - Absolutely Fabulous Patsy Dusty
- Chris Packham - Ziggy StarDusty
- Kate Humble - Camo Dusty
- Michaela Strachan - Springtime Dusty

Families in Merseyside and Lancashire can pick up their Dusty Duck trail map from the admission desk and tick off the fantastic Dustys dotted around Martin Mere's stunning grounds amongst the real-life ducks.

Joanna Lumley said:
"I'm very proud of my Patsy Dusty Duck – she's absolutely fabulous!"

Naz Mogra, a presenter on BBC North West and CBBC's Newsround said:
"As a reporter and presenter on CBBC's Newsround I know just how important it is to inspire kids to care about important issues in a fun way! I'm really happy that I have had the chance to help design Supergirl Dusty Duck as part of WWT's Celebrity Dusty Duck trail. It is a light-hearted way to get kids wanting to protect nature for the future – one of the most important issues of our times!"

Nick Brooks, Martin Mere Centre Manager said:
"The response we have had to Dusty Duck has been amazing. The giant Dusty Ducks look fantastic in amongst our real life wildlife. Kids (and big kids) love all the different wild and wacky Dusty Ducks each designed by a well known celebrity with their own take on Dusty Duck. The trail is a great way to get children out and about while having fun."

The Celebrity Dusty Duck trail is included in admission. Find out more information at wwt.org.uk/martinmere.

WWT Martin Mere Wetland Centre is open every day (except Christmas Day) from 9.30am to 4pm during winter months and parking is free of charge. Situated off the A59, it is signposted from the M61, M58 and M6. The Centre is also accessible via the Southport to Manchester and the Liverpool to Preston line by train from Burscough Rail Stations. Visit the web site http://www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere/ to find out what's on all year round at Martin Mere and the other eight WWT Wetland Centres.

Visit the web site www.wwt.org.uk/martinmere to find out what's on the reserve at the moment as well as all the upcoming events

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Rockers take to stage to raise funds for lifesaving equipment

by Danielle Thompson

A BAND of rockers from Parbold and Appley Bridge will be taking to the stage to raise funds for a community accessible defibrillator for Hilldale Village Hall.

Members of Hilldale Community Association have launched a fundraising drive to raise £1,000 to pay for the lifesaving equipment which delivers an electric shock to the heart that is designed to halt an irregular rhythm and allow a normal rhythm to resume following sudden cardiac arrest.

Their first fundraiser will be a concert, featuring local band The Last Resort on Saturday, December 17 at Parbold Village Hall.

Formed 15 years ago by a group of dads from the Appley Bridge and Parbold area, The Last Resort are all former group members in their younger days who decided to get together to raise funds for local projects and charities. They cover well-known classic hits ranging from the 1950s and 60s through to today.

The Lancashire Defibrillator Campaign was launched by former West Lancs mayoress Sue Murrin–Bailey in 2012 and since then more than 30 of the lifesaving devices have been installed across the borough.

To access a community publicly accessible defibrillator, members of the public can ring the emergency services to ask for a code to free the device from its protective cabinet.

Tickets for the concert are £10, take your own refreshments. To reserve tickets email Hilldale@btconnect.com or text 07957 135 961.

Local band The Last Resort who will be performing to raise funds for a defibrillator for Hilldale Village Hall

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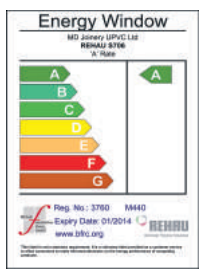

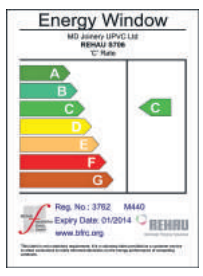

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Bees project award gives Rangers a buzz

Council staff and volunteers recognised by environmental charity for improving pollinators' habitat

MEMBERS of West Lancs Council's Ranger Service are 'buzzing' after picking up an award for their work with wild bees at Beacon Country Park and other areas of the borough.

The Rangers have received a Bees' Need Award from environmental charity Keep Britain Tidy for their efforts to improve habitats for the bees and other pollinators.

Along with volunteers, they have been working closely with the Lancashire Wildlife Trust's Plan Bee Project which is largely funded in West Lancashire by the Whitemoss Community Fund.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, the council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "Congratulations to all the staff and volunteers who have helped to win this award.

"They can be very proud of the important work they have done here."

Experts believe creating good habitats for bees is vitally important to aid movement of populations. According to the British Bee Keepers Association one third of the food we eat would not be available without pollination from bees. In the UK about 70 crops are dependent on or benefit from visits by bees, and bees also pollinate the flowers of many plants that become feed for animals.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen

The Rangers and volunteers have carried out work throughout areas of council-managed land in the borough, planting wildflower seed, changing mowing regimes, altering woodland management and carrying out surveying work.

Education is also a key part of the project to increase public knowledge of the importance of bees, the threats they face and what simple steps can be taken to improve habitat for them

Schools have been encouraged to provide more plants in their grounds and information boards have been installed at key sites and public areas.

As a result of this work, more than 600 new records of bees and other important pollinators have been made in the last three years in West Lancashire.

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Sporty teenagers honoured at county awards ceremony

TWO sporty teenagers from West Lancashire have been recognised at a glittering ceremony at Blackpool's Hilton Hotel.

Fifteen-year-old Alexander Gaughan from Ormskirk won the Young Volunteer of the Year category in the Lancashire Sport Partnership awards for his unwavering commitment to his school, Ormskirk rugby club and Town Green girls football team.

And 16-year-old gymnast Kate Meadow from Scarisbrick was recognised as West Lancashire Young Achiever.

As well as being a school and club-level rugby player and athlete, Alexander still manages to find the time to dedicate between three to 30 hours per week to volunteering.

The Ormskirk School pupil who has ambitions to be a PE teacher, has completed more than 450 hours of volunteering both in school and the community over the last three years for which he received a Youth Sport Trust 'Lead 2 Employability' Double Gold Award.

Meanwhile, Kate, who took up gymnastics aged just seven, trains at the Southport Gymnastics club in Ainsdale.

She is currently the North West International Gymnastics Federation (FIG) champion, English national vault champion and North West senior FIG champion, has represented the North West at the Bill McLoughlin Apparatus Team Championships and won two silver medals at the Challenge Cup, one of the most important women's gymnastic competitions in the country.

The Southport club, which is home to Olympic, European and national champions, is currently trying to raise £350,000 to buy the building they use and they hope publicity from Kate's latest success will help boost their fundraising efforts.

Celebrating sporting achievement and recognising individuals' dedication and contribution to sport and community activity, the awards are organised by the Lancashire Sport Partnership (LSP) which works to improve health and wellbeing across the county by encouraging active lifestyles.

Left: Gymnast Kate Meadow with her award

Right: Young Volunteer of the Year Winner Alex Gaughan (centre) is pictured with Brent Kelly from sponsor Fettle and Steve Freeman from the Lancashire Police and Crime Commissioner's Office.

Adrian Leather, chief executive of LSP, said: "The awards pay tribute to people, young and old, who show dedication to perform at the highest level or those who work tirelessly to support individuals or clubs week in, week out, for the love of sport.

"As an organisation that exists to encourage people to participate, or volunteer in sport, we're delighted to have crowned this year's winners, without whom we wouldn't have the infrastructure to support and help people of all ages get involved in something which is great for the mind and body.

"We hope that they, and these awards, will encourage people to give sport a go, whether it be on the pitch, court or sidelines, we can all work together to make Lancashire a happier and healthier place."

The event was sponsored by organisations including Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust, the University of Central Lancashire (UCLan), the University of Cumbria and Places for People.

West Lancashire Borough Council

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Family's £2,000 gift to hospital baby unit

by Danielle Thompson

Ormskirk Hospital neonatal unit fundraisers at the event

THE family of a young boy who defied the odds to survive after being born 10 weeks early have raised more than £2,000 to fund more potentially lifesaving equipment for the hospital ward where he received treatment.

Emma and Lee Graham started fundraising for Ormskirk Hospital's Neonatal Unit after their son Theo was born almost three months prematurely weighing just 2lb 8oz in October 2012.

Theo, now a healthy four-year-old, was cared for by staff at the unit for those crucial first few weeks of his life when he was at his most vulnerable. Since then a grateful Emma and Lee have organised a number of fundraising events on behalf of the hospital.

The family recently held a family Christmas shopping-themed event at St Jerome's Parish Centre near their home in Formby which featured gift stalls, along with singing to entertain customers by St Jerome's School Choir, Make Noise 2, PopVox Formby and Amanda Neale's Singing Academy, and entertainment by Street Dance group Lil Beatz.

There was also a raffle, tombola and name-the-teddy and weigh-the-teddy games, while local resident Bob Brady weighed in with a £250 donation to make the grand total £2,072.35.

Emma Graham said: "The Family Christmas Shopping Evening was a fantastic night that started with Theo opening the event singing in Spanish first followed by a Christmas song. He wanted to be involved and it was totally his own idea what he did.

"He was so confident and he sang again later on before coming home to bed, we are so proud of him.

"I'd like to say thank-you to everyone who supported us during the night, to all the businesses who attended or donated prizes, to the cake bakers who made cakes for the event, to all our helpers both setting up and during the night and finally to my family for all their support.

"This incredible amount will be presented to the Neonatal Unit and it will go towards funding vital equipment such as monitors and incubators."

The family also held a baby, toddler and children's event in October which raised £560.

The Neonatal unit needs 12 incubators, which cost around £15,000 each, and 12 monitors costing around £7,000 each.

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Rotarians' new recruit

WELCOME to the club...

President of the Rotary Club of Ormskirk, Jim Smith, greets new Rotarian Jason Grice at a special initiation ceremony at O'Briens Tea Rooms in Park Road.

Rotarians volunteer their skills, time and resources to make a positive difference to the lives of others in their local communities.

Projects include organising and supervising community events, promoting the achievements of young people, helping the disadvantaged or disabled and working with local businesses and charities.

Membership is by invitation only.

Rotary Club of Ormskirk President Jim Smith welcomes new member Jason Grice wtached by vice-president Roger Forster (left) and David Griffiths.

Civic duo join in cafe celebrations

A COUPLE of special visitors dropped in to help church officials celebrate the sixth 'birthday" of a popular community venue.

Mayor of West Lancs, Councillor Liz Savage and her consort, Cllr. Noel Delaney, enjoyed a cup of tea and a slice of cake as part of the celebrations at Aughton Christ Church's Vista Café.

The civic couple were greeted by the Ministry Centre's Reverend, Ross Moughtin and cafe manager, Lesley Birchall.

Opened in 2010 by the Bishops of Liverpool and of Virginia, the Ministry Centre took two years to build after 12 years of preparation.

The first-floor café, which can be easily accessed by lift, is part of the Ministry Centre but is open to everyone, not just church members. It is staffed by volunteers and serves lunch and light refreshments, as well as providing catering facilities to funeral parties.

The mayor and her consort with manager Lesley Birchall and Rev Ross Moughtin at the Vista Cafe birthday celebrations.

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Champion LETTERS to the Editor

Clare House, 166 Lord Street, Southport PR9 0QA
tel 01704 392 400 email editor@champnews.com

Determined tip campaigners deserve the gratitude of all West Lancs residents

I WANT to highlight the amazing achievement, against all the odds, of ARROW (Action to Reduce & Recycle Our Waste) and the 'No Whitemoss Campaign Group.'

These environment-conscious local residents have continued to fight against the totally unnecessary extension to the toxic waste dump Whitemoss, on behalf of all residents of West Lancashire - not just those resident in Skelmersdale, as I feel some uninformed members of the public believe.

The campaigners' win at the High Court means that a full judicial review can now take place - fantastic news to all those who attended the three days of public hearings and who have serious concerns about safety issues, after hearing alarming reports about this huge commercial venture.

Lord Justice Lindholm, at the Court of Appeal in London, said that the case has implications for other nationally-significant infrastructure projects elsewhere and needs to be heard in full because it could set an important precedent.

'Expensive'

Obviously the nature and location of this hazardous waste site is not purely an issue for those living in Skelmersdale, as many residents from Dalton, Newburgh and Parbold have realised, raising funds to help their neighbours - we all know how expensive it is to fight big businesses in the courts!

As a resident of Bickerstaffe, the clouds of 'dust' produced from the tremendous earth-moving that occurs on a daily basis on this toxic tip, concerns me.

This dust settles on fields adjacent to the dump, agricultural land in which local farmers grow food sold to national supermarket chains. This seemingly local problem is far from being that.

I am glad to see that local MP Rosie Cooper fully supports this worthy cause and that county councillors Gibson, Fillis and Aldridge are also backing their campaign.

However if other residents and businesses in West Lancashire were to give some financial support, however small, I feel sure that it would show these dedicated individuals that others are grateful for their efforts.

Very concerned resident of Bickerstaffe, details supplied

Heartfelt thanks for the caring, dedicated support during our family's recent bereavement

SADLY my wife, Jean, passed away on the morning of Thursday, November 24. When her illness was such that she had to take to her bed the superb welfare system kicked in. The centre of all their efforts was Jean's wants and needs; her wellbeing.

What she needed, what she wanted was quickly put in place - beds, mattresses, toilet seats, and a host of equipment, even a panic alarm - the North West welfare organisation came up trumps.

The palliative care/Queens Court organisation immediately provided a personal officer to advise and comfort us; Jean 'sitters' also appeared and sat with her during evenings, giving respite to the family.

District nurses became friends and made themselves available 24 hours a day. Nothing was too much trouble in making Jean comfortable and pain-free.

The system provided wonderful, courteous carers who provided comfort to Jean, changing her, cleaning her, washing her, talking to her and above all treating her with dignity and giving her real quality of life.

Our own Hall Green surgery, both doctors and staff, were not only professional but gave the family a real point of contact.

We would wish to include in our appreciation the Co-Op funeral service, who did a splendid efficient job dealing with church and crematoria.

On behalf of my family can I please express my thanks and appreciation to those dedicated and talented people for the wonderful care, comfort, quality of life and compassion given to my wife and the support given to the family.

It would be remiss of me to name names, there were so many lovely, caring people. Equally those organisations associated with her care we would wish to include. Thank you.

John Morrison and family

PICTURE of the week

Sailing Santas - members of Southport's Stand-Up Paddle Board Club set off on their sponsored circuit of the Marine Lake raising funds to boost last Sunday's Queenscourt Hospice Santa Sprint. Picture by Martyn Snape.

Why is Ormskirk's town centre being left to flounder?

I READ with disgust about West Lancs Borough Council wasting our council tax money.

I'd like to add why is Ormskirk town centre being left to flounder and die when Burscough is getting vast amounts of investment thrown at it?

All Ormskirk is now is 'Student Town' with charity and coffee shops everywhere. You can't buy a decent set of clothes or electrical items here anymore with all the major shops vanishing.

Yet go to Burscough and there's a new retail park going up, new supermarkets, busy town centre and on and on. I take it all this infrastructure is going in for the new residents planned there?

Well, WLBC, stop wasting money on stopping things and throw some investment and new housing our way. And stop bending over backwards to Edge Hill. Some of us locals actually still live here, you know.

Dave Driver, Ryburn Road, Ormskirk

Drop us a line...

■ IF you've got a view on a topic of local or national interest which you would like to share with the readers of the Champion, why not drop us a line?

Letters to the editor should be concise, preferably no more than 350 words, and should include the sender's name, address and contact details, although not necessarily for publication.

The editor reserves the right to edit all items submitted for favour of publication.

Correspondents preferring not to have their name and/or their address published may provide a suitable nom de plume.

Letters can be posted or emailed to the respective addresses listed at the top of this page.

PLEASE note: All views and opinions expressed in letters to the editor are solely those of the authors and are NOT necessarily endorsed or advocated in any way by Champion Newspapers.

Spend taxpayers' money on something we actually want!

HAVING read the letter about the council's expensive legal challenge to the proposed Parrs Lane development (Letters, November 30), we thought it cannot be true that our elected councillors would set aside this vast amount of taxpayers' money to delay building on their own site in Aughton.

Imagine our dismay when, after a simple phone call to our local councillor, we find it's actually true! And at a time when the council is crying poverty.

Apparently, they cannot even spare electricity for the Christmas tree at the parish church, let alone the stupid green bin policy etc., etc.

Both our son and daughter had to move away from the area when they married due to house prices being so high locally. This means less precious time with our grandchildren for us and less help for them, especially in this festive season.

We came to Aughton in the 1960s and saw Aughton grow and prosper in the 1970s and 80s and stagnate ever since. All we see now is existing houses being demolished only to be replaced by a single huge monstrosity, or by a handful of out-of-character houses, shoehorned in with no gardens or space between them.

Surely, a well-planned development is better than all this character-destroying in-fill.

Like the author of the letter a few weeks ago, we too have never been consulted by the Residents Group who pose as representing all the Aughton dwellers and whose spokesman just seems not to want anything to happen in his backyard.

We, on the other hand, like a great deal of our friends and neighbours, want to see our community grow and provide services and housing for our children and grandchildren.

We urge the council to stop this folly and spend taxpayers' money on the things we actually want.

Aughton resident, by email

Good news, shame about the designs!

A LEGAL challenge to block plans to redevelop Skelmersdale town centre has been thrown out by the High Court and the promise of a new town centre can now be delivered.

This is good news for the people of Skelmersdale and we should be happy for the development to go ahead.

The one thing that makes me less than happy is the plan that has been put forward by St Modwen. The illustrations they gave to the media show building designs more akin to a retail park than a town centre. The buildings are box-like and have no architectural style whatsoever.

Therefore, although I'm delighted with the High Court judgment in throwing out the appeal to block plans for the town centre, I certainly have reservations about St Modwen's proposed building designs.

Bill Clarke, Pennylands, Skelmersdale

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Father Nicholas Davis (right) with members of the Holy Trinity Primary bell-ringing-club and his successor Father Martin Daniels.

Pupils ring final bell for Father Nicholas

MEMBERS of a school bell-ringing club held a special service to bid farewell to their founder who is moving to a new parish.

Rector of Tarleton Holy Trinity Church, Father Nicholas Davis teamed up with Stephen Smith, headteacher at the affiliated Tarleton Holy Trinity CE Primary School, to launch the club in March 2014.

Pupils take part, ringing the church's bells for Christmas and Easter services, as well as occasions such as weddings.

And they held a special service to mark Father Davis's leaving before taking up his new post at Darwen.

Stephen Smith said: "When the club was set up in 2014 it was one of the only primary school bell-ringing clubs in the country.

"Over the last couple of years, every Tuesday after school, 18 children in total (and one headteacher!) have been taught to ring the church bells. Six children volunteer each year to be part of the club and they have rung rounds and call changes for Christmas services, Easter Services, leavers' services, a wedding and more recently for Father Nicholas' leaving service.

"The six children from the present club will continue to practice their bell-ringing skills with Father Martin Daniels leading the meetings, but they are sad to bid farewell to the founder of the club."

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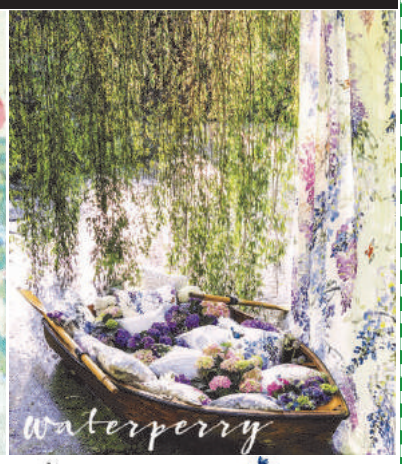

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Theatre star lends her name to Edge Hill search for new playwrights

RESPECTED classical actress Dame Janet Suzman has lent her name to a new annual award for Edge Hill University students.

The Dame Janet Suzman Student Playwriting Prize is open to final year undergraduate students on creative writing or performing arts programmes,

Featuring Dame Janet herself on the judging panel, alongside academic staff, it aims to recognise, nurture and develop students' talents writing for the stage.

The inaugural winning script will be announced in June 2017 and the winner will receive a £1,000 prize.

The play will be produced and staged at the university's Arts Centre by One Hour Theatre Company with the possibility of touring the play to other venues.

Dame Suzman said: "Writing for drama will become even more vital than Shakespeare made it, for today we have ever-hungry TV to feed, as well as a flourishing theatre industry. I look forward to students' creativity with eager anticipation."

Edge Hill vice-chancellor, Dr John Cater, added: "We are delighted to have Dame Jane as an honorary graduate of the university and even more pleased that she has agreed not only to put her name to this incredibly prestigious prize, but also to judge the entries, giving students the benefit of her wealth of experience."

Janet Suzman spent the 1960s in the Royal Shakespeare Company and built up an impressive classical resumé portraying most of the Bard's illustrious heroines, as well as appearing in several TV versions of the classics.

Along with director Trevor Nunn she also collaborated on some of England's finest stage productions, notably Antony and Cleopatra, Titus Andronicus and Hello and Goodbye. Later work included notable roles in She Stoops to Conquer,

Dame Janet Suzman

The Good Woman of Setzuan and her Hedda Gabler.

The 1970s also saw her branch out into films and, following an auspicious turn in A Day in the Death of Joe Egg, she won the coveted role of Czarina Alexandra in the historical production Nicholas and Alexandra, for which she was nominated for the Academy Award for Best Actress, BAFTA and the Golden Globe.

In a reprise of her real life family's activism, the Johannesburg--born actress co-starred in the anti-apartheid film A Dry White Season (1989) and later returned to South Africa to provide multi-ethnic castings in versions of Shakespearean plays.

In 2002 she returned to the RSC to perform in The Hollow Crown, and most recently appeared in a London production of Whose Life Is It Anyway? (2005) with Kim Cattrall.

Suzman was awarded an Honorary Doctorate by Edge Hill in 2014.

The university will also be awarding The Dame Janet Suzman Scholarship, worth £1,000, to the final year student of performing arts who achieves the highest marks.

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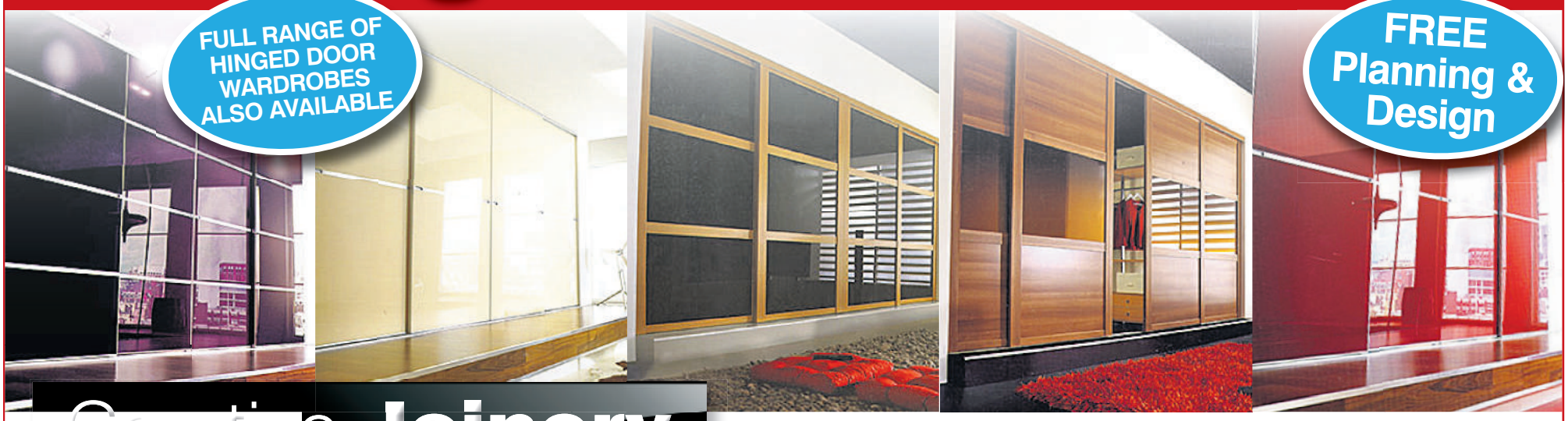

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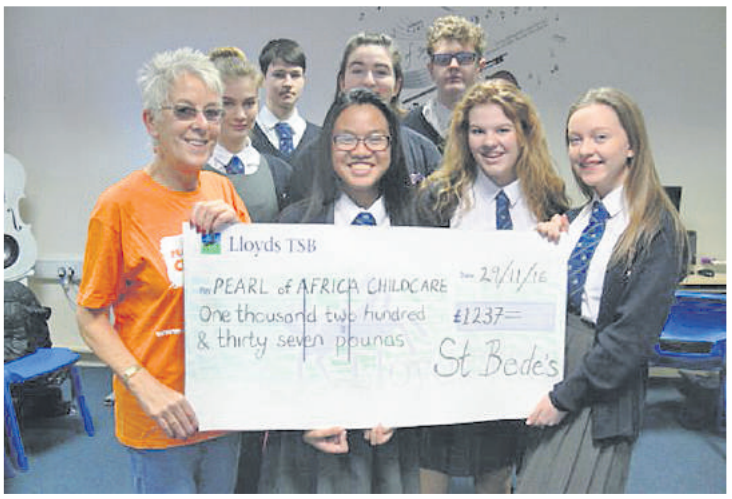
T: 07580 163959 | www.skembaptist.co.uk.

St Michael C of E Church
10 Church Lane, Aughton L39 6SB
SUNDAY 18TH DECEMBER
10.30am Christingle
An opportunity to raise funds for the Children's Society, while lighting our Christingles to remind us of Christ bringing his light into the world. If you have a Christmas Jumper, you are welcome to wear it!
4pm Lessons and Carols
We sing traditional carols while listening to the story of Jesus told by bible readings.
CHRISTMAS EVE
4pm Crib Service
A wonderful service for children of all ages. Make this service part of your family tradition before returning home to hang the stockings!
11.30pm Midnight Communion
A mystical time when we welcome the Christ child and Christmas begins
CHRISTMAS DAY
8.15am Holy Communion
10.30am Family Communion
The most anticipated of days, we celebrate by singing carols. Children are invited to bring one of their new toys to show everyone.

CHRISTMAS SERVICES ORMSKIRK PARISH CHURCH
New Church House, Church Street, Ormskirk L39 3AJ
Dec 18th 6:30pm Carols by Candlelight
Christmas Eve 24th Dec
6:00pm Nativity • 11:30pm Holy Communion
Christmas Day
10:30am Family Holy Communion
Sunday 1 January
10:30am Informal Holy Communion

CHRISTMAS SERVICES LATHOM PARK CHAPEL
Hall Lane, Lathom L40 5UG
Dec 18th 4:00pm: Carols by Candlelight
Dec 25th 10:30am Family Holy Communion
Sunday 1 Jan 11:00 Morning Prayer



St Bede's pupils with their cheque for the Pearl of Africa choir

Pupils' four-figure boost for African children's charity

PUPILS at a West Lancashire high school struck a winning note for charity when they played host to a visiting choir by raising a four-figure sum for youngsters in Africa.

The Pearl of Africa Children's Choir spent the day at St Bede's Catholic High School in Ormskirk as part of two-months tour of the UK to raise funds for children's homes, schools and clinics in Uganda.

During their day at the school in St Anne's Road the choir performed for all pupils, led workshops in drumming, dance and singing, and took part in question-and-answer sessions about their life in Uganda.

And in response St Bede's pupils raised the grand total of £1,237 for the charity through bucket collections, a craft stall and a non-uniform day.

Mrs Anne Marshall, operations manager at the school, said: "It was an amazing day - pupils and staff alike were blown away by the choir.

"It culminated in a performance with St Bede's pupils dancing and singing on stage with the choir.

"Other highlights were an impromptu football match with Year 7 at lunchtime, and BBC Radio Lancashire broadcasting live from the event."

Bobbies volunteer at Rainbow House

POLICE officers from Lancashire Constabulary took time out from their regular duties to teach children at a charity in Mawdesley about their roles - and help grit the car park!

Officers John and Alex, who are part of the Early Action Team in West Lancashire, spent six days at Rainbow House, which provides offers rehabilitation, education and fun for children, young people and adults with neurological conditions.

As well as helping to tidy and improve the site, the pair spent time in the nursery, fun club and therapy services where they met the children and explained about the role of a police officer.

Rainbow House's chief executive, Carole Cochrane, said "John and Alex were extremely helpful and enthusiastic and we appreciate their time and efforts. Volunteers are very important to us in maintaining and expanding our services."

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Aughton Park Baptist Church
Long Lane, Aughton, Ormskirk L39 5BZ

Christmas Services

Carol Service (with choir)
Fri 16th Dec at 7.30pm

Family Service
Sun 18th Dec at 11.00am

Christmas Holiday Bible Club (age 4-11)
Fri 23rd Dec from 9.30am – 12.30pm

Christmas Day
Morning service from 10.45-11.30am
Evening service at 6.30pm

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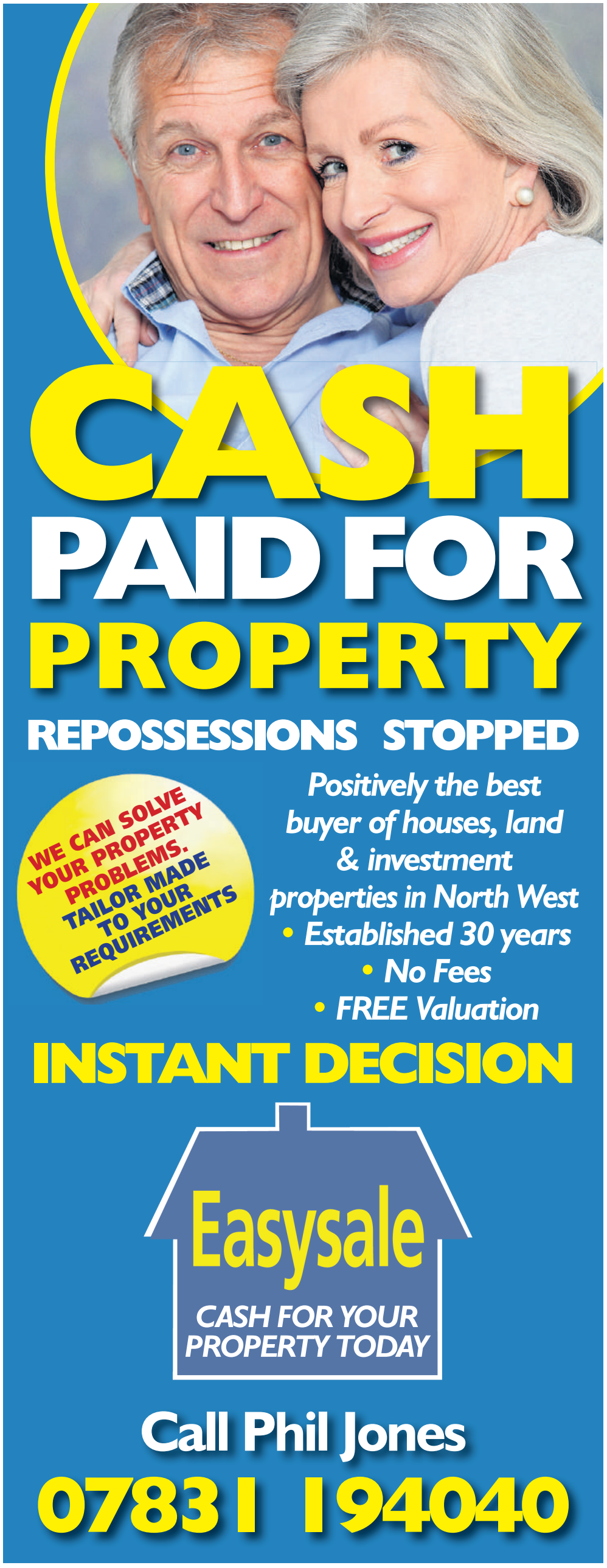

Members of the Aughton-based fundraising committee of North West Cancer Research pictured with one of the many cheques they have presented to the charity over five decades

50 years of fundraising

A GROUP of local fundraisers are celebrating more than five decades of helping to secure thousands of pounds for cancer research projects in the region.

The Aughton-based fundraising committee of North West Cancer Research was formed 50 years ago by Amy Armitage, who, along with a group of friends, wanted to help those with cancer and their families by funding research in the region.

With just a handful of volunteers the group started by organising regular coffee mornings and grew steadily over the years.

Today, there are 10 volunteers who work tirelessly to organise regular events and activities, including coffee mornings, quiz nights, stamp selling, race nights, local concerts and even a fashion show.

Since 2012 the group has raised £30,733 for North West Cancer Research, which funds lifesaving cancer research projects at the University of Liverpool, Lancaster University and Bangor University.

Longest-serving member Pauline Welsh has been fundraising with the committee for the last 35 years. She was motivated to join after her mother died of breast cancer. Pauline believes advances in cancer research are vital if we are able to overcome this killer disease.

She said: "What we know about cancer and cancer treatment has developed so much since my mother had cancer all those years ago, but there is still much more research to be done to save more lives."

All money raised by the Aughton fundraisers has supported lifesaving research, including projects looking at skin cancer and head and neck cancers at the University of Liverpool. It has also helped to fund the next generation of research scientists, as North West Cancer Research currently funds 16 PhD studentships as well as seven intercalating students.

Current chair of the committee, Anne Holland, became a member by way of accident, after she volunteered to help with a tin collection in her local pub.

She said: "After 50 years of fundraising and raising awareness of cancer research, it's inspiring to see the work that is being done on our doorstep to tackle one of the region's biggest health problems and makes us more determined to carry on contributing to the fight against cancer."

"Thanks to research, half of all people diagnosed with cancer will now survive. We want to ensure a constant flow of research to further improve our understanding of cancer and to ensure that in the future everyone diagnosed with cancer will have a chance to survive."

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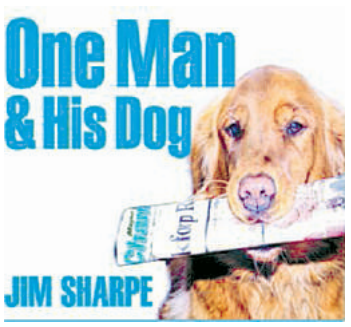
November's great for cruising the Broads - despite the ice!



I SHOULD think twice before venturing forth again on the waterways of Norfolk and Suffolk during November, according to a very good friend of mine.

And I could understand his annoyance when I was forced to phone him only a day before he had made arrangements for me and the crew (Tina and Cinders) to be ferried home again, telling him we would have to re-arrange because sheet ice was making it impossible to regain my home boatyard.

But I was too busy apologising to both him and his staff who have made my visits to cruise my boat, *Manxman* several times a year, to point out that this is only the second time in 34 years that I have experienced serious icing on the rivers in November. And that, in any case, until about three weeks before I set out he was himself intending to join me in his sister vessel, *Mona's Queen*!

Ice apart, I had a thoroughly wonderful cruise. The Broads and their inter-connecting rivers provide an endless panorama of late autumnal beauty, different altogether from the more 'green' months of the year, particularly at sundown.

And of course there are far fewer hardy soles out in hire cruisers, so mooring at a chosen spot is less of a lottery. Having said that, I do wonder why. Because in November you can hire an ultra-modern cruiser with everything from central heating to a fully-equipped galley and bathroom facilities that would complement any modern home. They also come with aft bow thrusters that make mooring and leaving a mooring far easier - though this may be at the expense of learning true boat-handling skills.

The riverside pubs do excellent grub, and the fish and chip shops are great too. But one of the things I like most is that because of the relatively small number of cruisers around, you tend to get to know a lot of people, at least on nodding terms.

And even the yachtsmen and women, who tend to be rather aloof in the summer, and the fishermen too for that matter, are prone to give cheery waves and even a 'good morning' in November. Perhaps they think you are as mad as they are.

Actually, talking of being mad reminds me that it is not only the autumn pretending to be winter that can be less than hot. Many years ago now, twice each year my brother George and I, along with mum and dad, used to holiday on the Broads in a hire cruiser. Indeed, *Manxman*, then *Golden Light 6,* was our hire steed for the three years before my brother and I bought her.

One night, following a good summer's day, we were moored outside a pub, and, as was our wont then, spent the evening inside. It was pretty crowded but we found a table alongside the door, which was propped open to let cool air into the premises.

As so often happens, later in the evening the cool air became a cold draft and dad shut the door, only for it to be propped open again by the licensee. My father asked him if he would mind shutting it again because my mum was feeling the now cold air, only to be told by the landlord: "What's your problem – it's a balmy evening?"

I'll never forget dad's reply. "It seems to me that the only barmy thing around here is you!" he said.

Another freak of nature was the sudden and quite terrific thunderstorm that hit us just after our evening meal. George's then dog, Buttons, was terrified of loud bangs and managed to find safety by clambering into the cupboard beneath the galley sink unit, making nearly as much noise amidst the pots and pans as the thunder did!

So pooh! I say to a trifle like ice (or even snow). Worse things happen at sea, and sometimes on the normally tranquil Norfolk Broads as well.

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Christmas campaign seeks new recruits for national organ donor register

WEST Lancs residents are being urged to join the national organ donor register after more than 70 people from Lancashire died in the last five years while waiting to receive one.

Chiefs at NHS Blood and Transplant have launched a Christmas campaign calling on people of all ages to sign up to the NHS Organ Donor Register.

Registration online only takes a few minutes and one donor can save eight lives.

There are currently more than 6,500 people in the UK - including 150 children - waiting for a transplant.

A total of 78 people in Lancashire have had potentially life-changing transplants over the last year and 384 have had one in the last five years.

While more than 81% of people in NHS Blood and Transplant polls say they support organ donation, only around a third of UK residents have joined the register.

Sally Johnson, NHS Blood and Transplant director of organ donation and transplantation said: "It's a terrible shame that so many people who want to save lives through organ donation have not taken the next, simple step to register that decision.

A poster for the organ donor campaign

" This Christmas, we are asking everyone who supports organ donation to take just a few minutes of their online time to show that support by joining the NHS Organ Donor Register."

For more information or to sign up, visit organdonation.nhs.uk

Consultant's 'Royal' recognition

CONSULTANT psychiatrist Professor Nusrat Husain of Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust has been named Academic Researcher of the year 2016 by the Royal College of Psychiatrists in recognition of his work in improving access for marginalised communities to mental health care.

Professor Husain said: "It is a great honour to receive this award.

"I am extremely grateful to Professor Max Marshall and Lancashire Care NHS Foundation Trust for their support. They have helped me to continue addressing health inequalities and improving access to appropriate mental healthcare for the diverse ethnic minority and other marginalised communities."

Amy's passion and dedication earn her a scholarship

KNITTING fanatic Amy Pennington has turned a childhood hobby into a way of helping others, and her passion and dedication has earned her a prestigious Edge Hill University Excellence Scholarship.

The 23-year-old primary education student donates tiny knitted hats and vests to premature baby units across the UK.

She also sends them to overseas charities that provide clothing to babies from areas so poor their families have to wrap them in newspaper to keep them warm.

Growing up, Amy spent a lot of time visiting her grandma who was always knitting. She wanted to join in so her mum bought her a children's knitting kit.

And after developing her knitting skills over the years and seeing the impact it can have on babies' lives, it is now Amy's passion.

"My grandma started donating her garments to her friends at a local knitting club, who send them to UK premature baby units as well as overseas to the unfortunate children of Rwanda," said Amy.

"This inspired me to want to help so I started sending mine too.

"I started attending the knitting club and since joining the group, I have knitted twiddle muffs that help people in the North West suffering from dementia and have also been taught to crochet by one of the ladies. It is rewarding using my hobby in order to benefit others less fortunate than myself.

"When I got the call from the scholarships team I was so surprised, but most of all I was so grateful at being awarded a scholarship. I'm going to use this to buy wool and buttons so I can continue to make a difference to babies all over the world."

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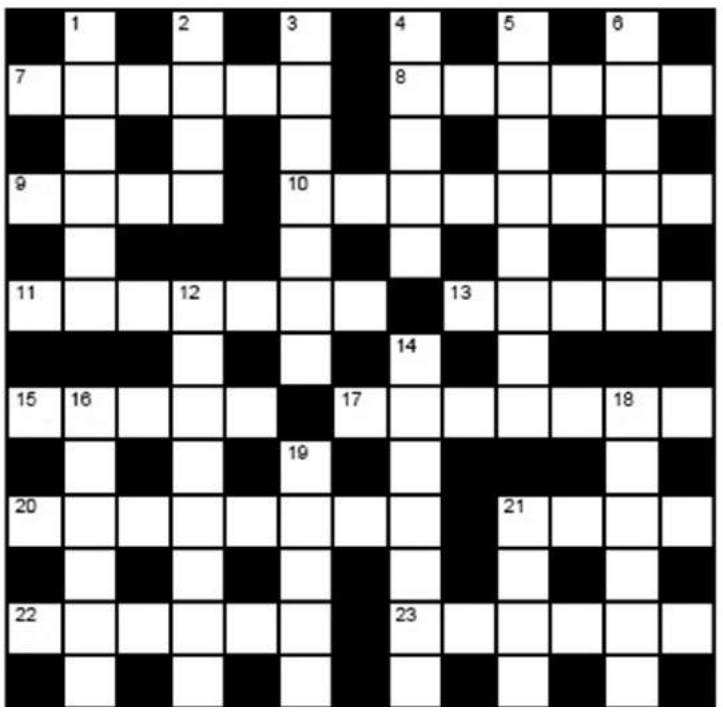

Last week's solutions:

Across: 7 Canopy. 8 Arnica. 9 Tome. 10 Befriend. 11 Mugshot. 13 Scamp. 15 Denim. 16 Nit-pick. 18 Ordnance. 19 Idea. 21 Entree. 22 Steady.

Down: 1 Sago. 2 Money spinners. 3 Eyebrow. 4 Daffy. 5 Undisciplined. 6 Economic. 12 Unerring. 14 Finesse. 17 Sneer. 20 Eddy.

ACROSS

7 Of the offspring-bearing sex (6)
8 Minimum number of members of a group that must be present at meetings to make proceedings valid (6)
9 Informal term for bullets, shells etc. (4)
10 Scenery and props designed and arranged for a particular scene in a play (5,3)
11 Small chapel used for private worship (7)
13 Entice (5)
15 (Of weather) pleasantly warm (5)
17 Persevere (7)
20 Person who enjoys eating (8)
21 A quick look (4)
22 Highly addictive drug derived from morphine (6)
23 Your sibling's son (6)

DOWN

1 Tool for widening drilled holes (6)
2 Mexican dish consisting of a folded and filled tortilla (4)
3 Work out the size of something using a marked instrument (7)
4 Young pigeon (5)
5 Of no fixed abode (8)
6 Adjust an engine to improve its performance (4,2)
12 The day after today (8)
14 Awaiting decision, unresolved (7)
16 A climax or culmination (6)
18 Country whose capital is Stockholm (6)
19 Pleasure trip (5)
21 The Bishop of Rome (4)

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Volunteers from the Princes Trust joined West Lancashire Borough Council Parks and Countryside Ranger Service and members of the Friends of Coronation Park to help with the Meadow Project

Young volunteers get 'stuck in' to help with park Meadow Project

VOLUNTEERS from the Prince's Trust joined West Lancs Council Parks and Countryside Ranger Service and members of the Friends of Coronation Park to help with the Meadow Project at the Ormskirk park.

Management of the meadow in the park is important to help stimulate growth for the following year.

The team had to clear the meadow of hay after its autumn cut to help the seed bed for the following year.

And although they found it hard going work, they enjoyed the task with many saying it had saved them a trip to the gym that evening!

The council has links with the Wildlife Trust who have provided seeds from the Plan Bee project which have been sown so the meadow will be full of beautiful blooms in the spring and summer.

This also helps to offer a food source for pollinators and provide a habitat for the water voles that reside at Coronation Park.

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, Werst Lancs Council's portfolio holder for leisure, said: "The young volunteers have done a great job working with the Rangers and the Friends group, and I am sure they enjoyed the tasks they carried out."

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Revisit Grimm fairy stories with Lempen Puppet Theatre

FAMILIES can enjoy a show at the Chapel Gallery in Ormskirk in the run up to Christmas.

The Lempen Puppet Theatre are perform The am-A-zing Thing this Saturday (December 17).

This is an imaginative journey through some well-known Grimm stories with puppets, acting and live music. It's family entertainment, and families are welcome to curl up on the gallery rugs, beanbags or chairs and experience a magical performance.

Shows are at 11am and 2.30pm and last for 55 minutes. The show is suitable for children aged five and over.

Places are limited, so contact the Gallery to book on 01695 571328 or chapel.gallery@westlancs.gov.uk

Councillor Yvonne Gagen, portfolio holder for leisure, said: "This sounds like a fantastic family show, so make sure you don't miss it."

Lempen Puppet Theatre Company, which was founded in 1987, is one of Britain's great touring theatre companies.

Lempen Puppet Theatre are to perform at the Chapel Gallery

They tour extensively all over the UK, and have appeared at various festivals, theatres and schools across Europe and beyond, including Austria, Belgium, Czech Republic, Denmark, Finland, France, Germany, Greece, Ireland, Italy, Taiwan and the Turks & Caicos Islands.

Professionally trained in puppetry, mime, music, mask and sculpture, they specialise in modern day myths that connect the imagination to real and contemporary issues.

School holds regional music conference

THE Annual Northern Conference of The British Association of Symphonic Wind Bands and Ensembles (BASBWE) took place at Scarisbrick Hall School over the weekend of November 26 and 27.

This significant event also saw the launch of the BASBWE and Scarisbrick Hall School Partnership – The International Centre for Wind Ensemble Education (ICWE)

The launch weekend and annual conference were a huge success with over 180 musicians taking part during the weekend's activities. World class soloists and tutors led sectional rehearsals and massed band rehearsals as well as the chair of BASBWE and film composer, Bill Connor leading a creative improvisation workshop.

The Saturday night saw the massed band of ICWE perform several new works for wind band composed by Andy Scott and Michael Betteridge alongside some more familiar repertoire.

The highlight of the evening concert was a world premiere performance of Voyage of Valour composed by Adam Roberts which was commissioned by BASBWE especially for the weekend. The Sunday started with a composer's workshop where up and coming composers, including A Level Music students from Scarisbrick Hall School, had the opportunity of hearing their works performed live by a full-scale wind band and received valuable feedback from established composers Bill Connor and Andy Scott.

In the build up to the event, students at Scarisbrick Hall School have received weekly workshops sessions with Bill Connor. The culmination of this hard work was the performance of a piece of music they had composed called A Rumble in The Sky for full symphonic wind orchestra. All of the pupils joined with the orchestra and pupils from Our Lady of Lourdes for the premier performance in front of a packed audience at the Scarisbrick Hall School Theatre.

Musicians performing at the event

For musicians and vocalists in the local area there is the opportunity to join the new Saturday Performing Arts School at Scarisbrick Hall School. This gives the chance for young people to work and train with leading musicians, dance and drama teachers to achieve the highest of standards. For further information contact the school on 01704 841151 or email enquiries@scarisbrickhallschool.co.uk

Following on from a highly successful weekend, Scarisbrick Hall School's Performing and Visual Arts Faculty are now presenting a Jazz Master class concert featuring international jazz soloists Dennis Rollins (trombone) and Alan Barnes (alto saxophone).

This will take place at the school on Saturday January 21. The next BASBWE meeting will take place on October 20, 21, and 22 2017.

Soap star appearing in Empire pantomime

Jorgie Porter as Snow White. Picture by Jono Symonds photography

LIVERPOOL Empire's pantomime Snow White and the Seven Dwarfs opened at the weekend and stars Hollyoaks star Jorgie Porter.

TV favourite Jorgie is making her pantomime debut as she heads up this year's cast in the title role of Snow White.

Jorgie is best known for her role as Theresa McQueen in the Channel 4 drama serial Hollyoaks.

She was a contestant on the seventh series of Dancing On Ice on ITV. She made it all the way to the final where she finished runner up. Jorgie was then asked to return for Dancing On Ice: Champion Of Champions.

She has also starred in ITV's award winning series I'm A Celebrity... Get Me Out Of Here! Jorgie spent 23 days in the jungle and finished fifth.

Jorgie said: "I am so excited to be appearing in Snow White at the Liverpool Empire. It's every girl's dream to play a Princess and Snow White is one of the best!"

Joining Jorgie is Empire pantomime favourite Leanne Campbell who will be taking on the role of the Wicked Queen.

Leanne has become a much-loved member of the Empire panto family and returns for her fourth consecutive year. Leanne is a local radio broadcaster.

She is delighted to be appearing in the Empire pantomime once again but this time as the baddie a role and said: "I grew up backstage performing at the Empire, it's home to me and this year I can't wait to appear as the baddie for the first time in Liverpool!"

After delighting audiences in the role of Idle Jack last year, Liam Mellor returns with his madcap comedy style this time in the role of Muddles.

He said: "I am delighted to be invited back to the best venue I've ever worked in."

Snow White runs until Saturday, December 31.

New concert will celebrate life of Paul McCartney

A NEW concert production called Macca The Concert: Celebrating the Music of Paul McCartney is to launch at Southport theatre on Saturday, January 21 at 7.30pm.

It is the first of its kind to tour the UK and Europe.

It features acclaimed West End musicians and uses state of the art visual media projection throughout, and celebrates McCartney's entire solo career from 1970-2016 including all his best loved hits, the acclaimed Wings over the World 1975-6 Concert Tour and a selection of Beatles favourites.

This is the chance to experience the drama of Live and Let Die, the pathos of No More Lonely Nights and the nostalgia of Band on the Run alongside many, many more.

The show stars West End leading man Emanuele Angeletti (Let It Be) as Paul McCartney.

It also features a large screen projection along with a nine piece band.

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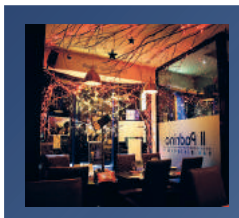

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SINGLE BED quilt set with base sheet lilac shade excellent condition may deliver £6 ono 01515263851

CURTAINS COTTON material lilac and white pattern with tie backs 54 inch by 46 inch excellent condition may deliver £6 ono 01515263851

TABLE LAMP A traditional oil style brass effect table lamp with unusual glass shade, Aintree. £35.00 07434841029

G PLAN Two seat sofa neutral cream fabric suit modern or traditional style comfy, solid frame vgc £100 01704 549616

INDESIT FREEZER 50cm under counter cream painted door £10 01704 575124

STAINLESS STEEL sink by reginox rh drainer large bowl with strainer waste £10 01704 575124

HOOVER VACUUM 1600watt bagless £10 01704 575124

5 DRAWER Kitchen cabinet 300mm wide £10 01704 575124

HOSTESS TROLLEY Philips with 4 glass dishes and lids. Good working condition. Keeps food warm for 2 hours. Wood effect. £25 01704 821920

TABLE CHAIRS Solid pine farmhouse style. 4 chairs. Tiled table top. Chairs & table painted cream with pine sections. £40 01704 821920

VINTAGE TABLE Solid wood. Folds to a slim 16cm. An ideal extra table. Great with a table cloth but needs revarnishing. £10 01704 821920

CHAISE LOUNGE Black velvet sofa day bed with a bolster cushion and silver legs. Only 6 months old! £90.00 o.n.o 07825219001

MATCHING WARDROBES Quality wood wardrobes. Double large single. £60 ONO 0151 9221826

SETTEE FREE 3 Seater Cottage Suite wood frame ideal for conservatory clean condition Ainsdale 07599 724050

WARDROBE Small rustic modern wardrobe, dark wood, attractive furniture 92cm width ideal small bedroom. Ainsdale £35ono 07599 724050

FLOOR TILES New 6 boxes black faux Riga slate tiles 6 to box 600x300mm 10mm thick Matt - Bootle £128 0151 2870112

GLASS BOWLS Trifle bowl and 4 smaller bowls cut glass from 80s medium bootle £4 0151 2870112

BAR STOOL Chrome frame black cushion seat, swivel, bar /kitchen stool with arm/back rest. £10 01695 578957-07443332245

MISC

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DOWNTON ABBEY M&S new boxed set of 3 fragrances soaps £5 07858 462998

COOL BAG Large M&S, new blue £4 07858 462998

VINTAGE TIEPRESS Or flower press, wooden, lovely condition £8 07858 462998

LAURA ASHLEY Shabby chic Queen Pillow, filled with duck feathers, blue/cream pattern £9 07858 462998

FIRE GRATE and ashpan only, cast iron Firemaster 16", used heavy £28 07858 462998

RECORDS WANTED indie, rock & roll, 60's pop and beat, rock, folk, punk etc. Bought for cash. Cigarette & bubble gum cards also bought. 01704 566210 after 6pm

GHD STRAIGHTENERS White platinum GHD straighteners unused still under guarantee cost £165 £85 07944169465

TALL BIRD FEEDER New good quality tall hanging fatball feeder holds six fatballs. Metal and clear plastic construction with weatherproof top £5 01704 546978

DIGITAL PICTURE FRAME Kodak Digital Picture Frame. 7 inch screen. Takes SD cards. Unwanted gift. Brand new in unopened box £25 01704 546978

WOODEN PUZZLES Eleven good quality wooden puzzles for adults, complete and boxed as new £20 01704 546978

FOOT WARMER electric, variable heat. As new, still in box, unused gift. £10 01704 260759

DARTBOARD as used in pubs on tele good quality hardly used bargain £10 01515319425/07773242918

BMX BIKE united supreme 2015 blue custom bar and grips complete with gyro excellent bargain £170 01515319425/07773242918

WARDROBE ideal stars new still boxed bargain £10 01515319425/07773242918

CHRISTMAS TREE 6ft new unused , box not so good but tree new bargain 1st to see will buy £10 07518929646

WANTED IPHONE 7 min 128gb or more o2 or unlocked new or as new can pay Upto £350 cash for genuine one 07743101819

CHRISTMAS LED Lights 350 static warm white lights ,long lead cable in green , inside or outside use ,boxed unopened, £15 07708836403

RED BERRY 100 led lights used once,green cable inside/outside use, also holly effect tinsel green berry garland 6ft x2 job lot £10 07708836403

DANBURY MINT a set of 6 West highland mugs still boxed in excellent condition £30 01695 728281

GIRLS PUZZLES books,soft toys etc. Large selection all as brand new. £22 the lot 07966101288

CLEAR GLASS and chrome corner 3 shelf TV stand . As new condition £15 01704 821720 or 07966101288

LED CHRISTMAS lights 360 chaser lights £10 07966101288

WALL BRACKET black metal, adjustable angles and height, ideal space saver, 40-50" TV £10. 01704 536608

FISH TANK Large, 5 mature fish, ornaments, filter £45. 01704 534470 or 07825148498

FACIAL SUNLAMP phillips hardly used cost £85 bargain £20 01515319425/07773242918

FOOTBALL MEMORABILIA wanted programmes,ticket stubs, match worn shirts cash paid 01515319425/07773242918

MISC

WALL BRACKET suitable to hold microwave tv dvd player etc ideal space saver adjusts to suit £6 ono may deliver 01515263851

CUSTOMPC magazines 41 in excellent condition, From 2008 to 2015. Offers please. 01772816637

SMALL WASHBASIN White Twfords wall mounted basin (45w 38d) with gold finish classic taps and waste. Really nice condition.£30 01772816637

PIONEER RECORDDECK PL420. Needs replacement stylus but otherwise great condition. Includes operating instructions. £75 ono 01772816637

BEREAVEMENT ITEMS Small items of furniture, light shades, mirrors, china, foot stools , pictures, vases, gifts sets, and much more from £5-00

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MOBILITY SCOOTER Roma Sovereign shoprider 4 wheel scooter. Max 4mph, 20 mile range. Little use from new. Removable/adjustable seat/steering. VGC £275 01704 220165

MOTHER AND BABY

TRAVEL COT Mothercare "Classic Travel Cot" with wheels for easy mobility includes additional foam mattress both as new used only once. £40 07908112757

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MOTHER AND BABY

MOSES BASKET Pink Izziwotnot Lottie Fairy Princess. Very pretty. Inc wooden stand, mattress, sheets & matching coverlet. Good condition. Call for photos. £20 07533293463

BABY BOY Massive selection of boys baby clothes. Newborn to 4 years. Coats, snowsuits, jeans, tops etc. All VGC. Call for details 07533293463

BABY GIRL Massive selection of baby girl clothes. Newborn to 4 years. Coats, dresses, snowsuits, knitwear. All VGC. Call for details. 07533293463

GIRLS TOYS Disney puzzles,-books etc up to 7 yrs. Everything in brand new condition £22 the lot 07966101288

QUINNY BUZZ blue footman, drawstring hood, cosy, winter weight, fleece lining as new £20 0151 924 9577

MOTHERCARE TRAVEL COT with mattress and fitted sheet £20. Ikea white highchair £10 0151 924 9577

TRAVEL COT and mattress, mamas and papas, ex cond £15. 01704 232816

PRAM Buguboo Buffalo, very good condition. Was £1200. Now £250 07473 280867

MOTORING

ROOF RACK 1 metre x 2 metre, heavy duty roof rack £15 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

MOTORING

PEUGEOT 406 rapier 51 reg, ex runner, decent cond, low miles for year £300ono, telephone after 5pm 0151 286 1834

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BIRD CAGE Brand New Bird Cage and Stand 5foot tall with all accessories cost £80 bought in error absolute Bargain £40. Can Deliver 07714942581

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

GOLF TROLLEY Pull along type £8 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

MINI TRAMPOLINE for exercising 38" in Diameter stands 8" off the floor in good condition £15 01695 728281

SPORTS EQUIPMENT

CROSS TRAINER Tony Littles sprint master, ex cond cost £200 sell for £100ono, buyer collects 0151 531 8098

WONDERCORE II Fitness System, duel resistance, built in twisting seat, achieve strong sexy six pack abs, resistance bands, chest back £80 ono 01704 572562

WEIGHTS BENCH Dumbell and rack for weights £60 07976 600836

CALLAWAY GOLF big bertha diablo 3 rescue hybrid stiff flex left handed new still wrapped bargain £50 01515319425/07773242918

TOYS AND GAMES

LEGO PARISIAN RESTAURANT Cost £100. As new £50ono. Simpsons House Lego. Bought for £170 as new £70. 07739 040838

BABY WALKER As new - used once only so very good condition. Cost £50 in ToysrUs Will accept £20 for quick sale. Maghull 0151 5272091

WAYBULOO Talking De-Li £7.50 07817375292

TOMY Pick N Pop - suitable for toddler £7 07817375292

VTECH Toot Toot Farnyard - full set complete with 5 animals (£9 each new). Never used. Unboxed £25 07817375292

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TOYS AND GAMES

SHAPE SORTER Shape sorter for babies. Musical/lights up. £4 01787375292

GALT TRICYCLE red as new hardly used £30 01704834161

SOFT TOYS Large bag of assorted teddy bears and soft toys £15 for lot 07944169465

REMOTE CONTROL DALEK 12 inch high remote control Dalek. Moves, talks and lights up. Boxed and in perfect working order £50 01704 546978

JUNIOR TRAMPOLINE blue and orange, With hand rail and padded skirt. Indoor or outdoor. Excellent condition. £15. 01695 228027

PEPPA TOYS Large bundle of Peppa figures & playsets. All characters. Ferris wheel, helter skelter playsets etc. Good condition. Call for photos. £20 07533293463

LITTLE TIKES Picnic table with attached benches, faded but sound, can deliver locally £10 ono Birkdale 01704-568606 or 07850-935406

GAMES COMPENDIUM 'Family favourites' tin of 9 classic games. Includes solitaire, checkers and playing cards. Only used once. Ex con. £10 01704 840135

QUAD SKATES Pink blue wheels from smyths toy store last year like new adjustable size 12 -2 ideal girls Xmas present £15ono 07710942707

BUILD A Bear dog ex cond. £8 07708836403

BUILD A Bear outfits x 4 also trainers and socks ex condition £10 07708836403

BABY OLEG meerkat,with grub toy, new, boxed with adoption certificate £10. collect from Ormskirk 07809 255966

ALEXANDA MEERKAT new,-boxed, with adoption certificate, collect from Ormskirk £10 07809 255966

WANTED by local collector, old toys, cars, trains etc, all conditions considered. 07900 380051

SPY GEAR Tripwire £7.50. Night Goggles £7.50. Security scanner £7.50. All three for £20. 0151 9226973

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TOYS AND GAMES

DOLLS HOUSE Beautiful 3 storey dolls house fully furnished, carpeted, wallpapered & electrics. Immaculately hand crafted. Ideal gift. £100.00. Welcome to view. 01704832788

MICRO SILVER scooter adjustable height folds down suitable age 8 upwards cost £90 accept £30 ono may deliver 01515263851

CHILD'S GAME TABLE Multi play free standing game table. Football, pool, push hockey and basket ball.Measurements to nearest inch ,H30",L34",D23",-can be dismantled for storage. Good condition, buyer collects.£30 01695573147

CHILD'S GUITAR Multi functional guitar with 5 different types of music, Electro, R&B, Reggae, etc. Uses two batteries . Suit age 4 plus.Ideal gift as new excellent condition buyer collects £12 01695573147

OLD CHILDREN'S TEA SET Little Miss Muffat set comprising four cups and saucers, milk jug and bowl with tea pot, boxed in good condition for age.£12.00 07434841029

GAMES TABLE Multi Games table Pool, Football, Table Tennis, Ice Hockey, etc. Good Condition £35 01704 875130

SYLVANIAN FAMILIES Windmill £35, Canal boat £10, Cedar terrace £35, Beechwood hall £30, Woodland bus £15, Berrygrove school inc accessories £30 ONO 07793261007

BRATZ DOLLS Various as new still boxed. £6 each Bargain. Moving forces sale need space. Ainsdale 07599 724050

FROZEN DOLL New boxed elisa Barbie type unwanted gift bootle £16 Disney store 0151 2870112

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New directions
Supporting the most vulnerable

Night Care Worker
20 hours - Grade 3A - £7.61 per hour Maghull
We require suitably experienced night staff to support adults with learning disabilities and additional complex needs. Experience of working in a similar care setting is essential. If you have worked with people with learning disabilities who have complex needs it would be advantageous. Rota 2 nights per week.

Advanced Care Worker
30 hours - Grade 5 - £ 16147 to £19005 Pro Rata Maghull
You will participate in the day to day delivery of a range of services for people with learning or physical disabilities in a person centred way to promote greater choice, skill development, independence and inclusion. Experience of working with people who have learning disabilities with complex needs as well as a Diploma in Health & Social Care Level 2 or equivalent is essential.

General Domestic Assistant
23.00 hours - Grade 1 - £7.20 per hour Southport
We require a person to undertake a range of domestic duties including the general day-to-day cleaning of the premises, laundry, assisting with kitchen duties and serving of meals and refreshments. Working days will be Thursday, Friday, Saturday and Sunday.

General Domestic Assistant
7.50 hours - Grade 1 - £7.20 per hour Southport
We require a person to undertake general cleaning duties for 1½ hours per day at Park Lodge (a horticultural unit) that is open to the public Monday to Friday. Hours will be 8.30 am to 10.00 am or 3.30 pm to 5.00 pm

Closing date for all applications is 30 December 2016

To apply for any of our vacancies visit our recruitment page at www.ndirections.org or contact us on 0151 934 2836 for an application pack.

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17.25 hours a week, to work during term-time. Required as soon as possible until 31 March 2017, subject to a review of the school budget. The children, staff and governors of Lordsgate Township CE Primary School would like to appoint a dedicated and skilled Teaching Assistant Level 2b to initially support Key Stage 2 classes.
Lordsgate is a friendly, happy and caring school family. The school has an excellent reputation in the community and we have very strong links with our church, St John the Baptist, Burscough. Our distinctive Christian ethos is a strength of the school.
You will need to have proven experience of working in a primary school classroom and the ability to support children with additional needs. You will be joining our team of dedicated and hardworking teaching assistants who set high standards for the children and show care and consideration for their needs.
We can offer you enthusiastic children, who enjoy learning and achieve well, a great working environment, the opportunity to join a dedicated team of experienced, hardworking staff committed to high standards, confident and well behaved children who enjoy school.
This position is part-time term-time only, please note the salary quoted is full-time equivalent. If successful the salary received will be paid on a pro-rata basis.
Essential: You must have NVQ level 2 in relevant child care qualification, GCSE or equivalent qualification in English and Mathematics. You must have experience of working in a primary school classroom and experience of supporting pupils with Special Educational Needs.
Informal discussion: Please contact Suzanne Robinson, School Business Manager on 01704 892374.
The post you are applying for is covered by the Rehabilitation of Offenders (Exceptions) Act 1975. If successful you will be required to apply to the Disclosure and Barring Service for a 'disclosure'.
Interview date: 18 January 2017.

Application forms: available from and returnable to the Headteacher at the school.
Closing date: 9 January 2017 at 12 noon.

Some schools are excluded as commitment is on an individual basis.

Lancashire County Council

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- *Round includes:* Square Ln, Chapel Ln, The Poplars
- *Round includes:* Liverpool Road North, Orrell Ln, Victoria St, Mart Ln, Orrell Mews, Peets Mill

SCARISBRICK

- *Round includes:* Southport Rd (part), Bescar Brow Ln, Bullens Ln, Jacksmere Ln

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ACKNOWLEDGEMENTS

GIDLEY ALFRED

The family of the late Alfred Gidley wish to thank relatives, friends and neighbours for their kindness, sympathy and support following their sad loss. Special thanks to staff at Southport Medical Day Unit, Queenscourt Hospice and also Rev Martin Abrams for their care and concern. Thanks to Canon Les Thomas and Canon Phil Green for a memorable service and to the many who attended. *'A wonderful reflection of Alf's contribution to the community he loved'.* Finally, thanks to Howard's Funeral Directors for their thoughtfulness and professionalism during the funeral arrangements.

HOUGHTON EILEEN

The family would like to express their sincere gratitude to all who attended the funeral.

Thank you to Ken Howles for his warm ministrations and a special thanks to Newland & Wilkinson Funeral Directors.

DEATHS

LOWE THOMAS

Aged 83 years

Peacefully on the

11th December 2016

Surrounded by his Wife Joan and all his loving family.

Funeral Service on Monday 19th December at 10.30am St.Helens Crematorium.

Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Services 01695 731199

GARVEY HANNAH

10th December 2016
Aged 74 years

From loving Husband Joe, Sons Bryan and Mark, Daughter Joanne, Rehanne, Leonie, Shannon and Tiegan.

Forever in our hearts
XXXX
Gone but not forgotten.

Funeral service on Monday 19th December at West Lancashire Crematorium, Burscough at 2.30pm. Enquiries to Devonport Funeral Service Tel 01695 731199

PONSONBY DAVID STEPHEN

On 3rd December 2016
Aged 78 years.

Loving Husband of Barbara. Devoted Dad of Stephen, Neil and Gareth. Dear Father-in-law of Leanda, Sharon and Deborah. Cherished Grandad of Georgia, Sophie, Ben, James, Ethan, George, Sam and Max. Will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. Funeral Service will take place at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough on Friday 16th December at 10.45am. Family flowers only please. Donations if desired will be gratefully received by the family for Alzheimer's Research UK. All enquiries please to Cookson Tyrer Funeral Directors, 2 Smithy Walk, Burscough, Lancashire L40 5UU. Tel 01704 897770.

PARKER VERA MARY (Nee Birchall)

5th December 2016
Peacefully at home with her family, aged 92 years

Beloved Wife of the late Jimmy. Much Loved Mum, Nan, Great Nan and Great Great Nannie. Will be sadly missed by all her family and friends. Funeral Service at St Thomas's Church Lydiate on Thursday 15th December at 9.30 am. Cremation following at Southport Crematorium. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for St Thomas Church c/o Graham J. Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull L31 5JB. Tel 0151 520 3330.

DEATHS

GOODMAN PAT

7th December 2016
Peacefully in hospital, with her family around her, aged 70 years

Much loved Wife of Colin. Loved Mum of Susan and son in law Philip. Dear Nan of Josh. Loved sister of Marion. Funeral Service at St. Gregorys church Lydiate on Friday 16th December at 9.30am. Cremation following at West Lancashire Crematorium, Pippin Street, Burscough. Family flowers only please but donations if desired for MacMillan Cancer Support c/o Graham J Clegg Independent Funeral Service, 7 Dover Road, Maghull L31 5JB. Tel 0151 520 3330.

FAUNCH CATHIE Nee HALSALL

6th December 2016
Aged 81 years

Formerly of Brook Cottages, Wanishar Lane, Barton, Halsall.

Much loved Mother, Nan and Great Nan. Funeral service and interment will take place at St Cuthbert's Church, Halsall on Friday 16th December at 10.30am. Floral tributes most welcome. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors, 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel: 01695 572997

HUNTER FRANK DAVID

5th December 2016
Aged 79 years

Beloved Father of David, Paul, Amanda and Kimberley. Grandad to Michael, Mitchell, Stanley, Nicola, Abigail, Lily and Bobby and Great Grandad to Auria, Eben, Eliza and Lydia. Family flowers only but donations if desired to British Heart Foundation. Funeral Service at Southport Crematorium on Thursday 15th December at 2.00pm. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors 128B Burscough Street, Ormskirk. Tel 01695 572997

DEATHS

STONE MARGERY JOY

5th December 2016
Aged 87 years

Beloved Wife of Brian (deceased). Mother to Michael and Sally. Grandma to Ross, Richard, Max and Lily. Margery will be greatly missed by all her family and friends. Family flowers only but donations, if desired, to the N.S.P.C.C Funeral Service will take place at Southport Crematorium on Monday 19th December at 11:20am followed by a Service of Thanksgiving at Emmanuel Church, Ormskirk at 12:00pm. All enquiries to Hunters Funeral Directors Tel: 01695 572997

JORDAN EDWARD JOHN (TED)

Passed away peacefully at home on 5th December 2016
Aged 89 years

Loving Husband of Jose, devoted Dad of Philip and Mark, dear Father-in-law of Joyce and Karen. Cherished Gramps of all his Grandchildren. He will be sadly missed by all his family and friends. The funeral service will take place at Christ Church, Douglas-in-Parbold, Parbold Hill on Monday 19th December 2016 at 11.00am. Family flowers only. Donations if desired for Prostate Cancer and Queenscourt Hospice, Southport, c/o of and for all enq to T. ME Walsh 46/48 Preston Road, Standish, Wigan. Tel 01257 421608.

MACKAY MALCOLM (Mally)

3rd December 2016
After a short illness
aged 82 years

Loving Husband of the late Kate, devoted Dad, dear Father-In-Law and a cherished Grandad and Great-Grandad to all his Grandchildren, will be sadly missed by all his family and friends and will always be our hero. Funeral Service will take place at St Pauls Church on Thursday 22nd December at 12:30pm followed by interment at Liverpool Road Cemetery. Family flowers only please by request. Donations if desired for the Alzheimers Society. All enquiries Margaret Whitelam Skelmersdale Funeral Service, 29/31 Sandy Lane Tel: 01695-559868

DEATHS

KAVANAGH BERYL (Nee Deacon)

7th December 2016
At home with her family after a short illness

Beloved Wife of Archie, much loved Mum of Ruth and Emma, Mother-in-law of John and a devoted Grandma to Hannah. Funeral service at St Helens Church, Sefton on Tuesday 20th December at 1.15pm followed by committal at West Lancashire Crematorium at 2.30pm. Family flowers only please but donations if desired to Macmillan Cancer Support c/o H. Leslie Humphreys Funeral Directors, 69 Liverpool Road, Crosby L23 5SE. Tel 0151 924 4805.

MILLINS PHILIP KENNETH CHARLES

25th November 2016
aged 99 years

In Loving memory of Ken,much loved Father of Angela, Neil and Elaine. Ken Millins was the first Male Principal of Edge Hill College Ormskirk from 1964-1979 when he retired.The funeral service will take place on Wednesday 21st December 2pm at the Bentley Crematorium, Brentwood Essex, CM15 9RZ.Family flowers only please,donations if desired payable to the National Eye Reseach Centre and/or Alzheimers Research UK, C/o F.E.Farrer funeral directors, 33 High Street Billericay , Essex CM159BA Tel 01277622944

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IN MEMORIAM

GALLAGHER JANE

2nd.ANNIVERSARY
20th.DECEMBER

This season's cheer and sparkle makes me realise anew how simply wonderful it was to have had a Sister just like you, because you were so special and this message comes to show that you're sadly missed this Christmas more then you will ever know. My little Sister and best friend, miss you everyday, love Peter xx

PRINCE ANN

8th December 2015

Today's the anniversary, of the day that we lost you, and for a time, it felt as tho, our life had ended too.

But loss has taught us many things, and now we face each day, with the hope and happy memories, to help us on our way.

From David, Diane, Jade and James xxxx

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PRAYERS

Saint Jude's Novena

May the Sacred Heart of Jesus be glorified, loved and preserved throughout the world now and forever.

Sacred Heart of Jesus, pray for us, St. Jude worker of miracles pray for us. St. Jude, helper of the hopeless pray for us.

Say this prayer 9 times a day. By the 8th day your prayers may be answered. Say it for 9 days and it has never been known to fail.

Publication must be promised. Thank you St. Jude

Instructions:
Light your candle and declare out loud what miracle you need right now. Repeat this prayer 9 times for 9 days. Do this at the same time each day, never skip a day. If you do, you need to start over again. On the 9th day give thanks, and say "So be it." Give it up to Saint Jude and let go of any worry. You will see results in 72 hours. Never use this prayer to manipulate or control anyone. Use it only with the best intentions.

This is the most important part of the entire process YOU MUST pass this miracle prayer onto others. Some people publish it in the paper, others e-mail it to their friends, and others post it in a public building.

T.Y.

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PUBLIC NOTICES

LANCASHIRE COUNTY COUNCIL
(HIGHER LANE, DALTON, WEST LANCASHIRE BOROUGH)
(TEMPORARY PROHIBITION OF THROUGH TRAFFIC) ORDER 2016

NOTICE IS HEREBY GIVEN that Lancashire County Council have made an Order under **Section 14(1) (a) of the Road Traffic Regulation Act 1984**, as amended, the effect of which will be to temporarily prohibit traffic on the roads set out in this notice.

1. No person shall cause any motor vehicle or cycle to proceed over that length of Higher Lane, Dalton from its junction with A5209 Alder Lane to its junction with Lees Lane in the Borough of West Lancashire.
2. The prohibition will be operative from 0930 hours and 1530 hours on Wednesday 21st December 2016 or until completion of the works within this period.
3. An alternative route for vehicular traffic affected by the closure is via: Lees Lane – Appley Lane South - Appley Lane North – B5375 Appley Lane North – A5209 Hall Lane – A5209 Sparrow Hill – A5209 Parbold Hill – A5209 Alder Lane and vice versa.

The temporary prohibition is necessary to allow essential drainage investigation works to be carried out.

Authority given for this Order to be made:
Michael White, Network Regulation Manager, Lancashire Highway Services, 0300 123 6701 [Ref: HRiT/16/08/5742/ARH]

Lancashire County Council
www.lancashire.gov.uk

West Lancashire Borough Council
Planning (Listed Buildings & Conservation Areas) Act 1990 Town and Country Planning (Development Management Procedure) (England) Order 2015 - Article 15

APPLICATION(S) FOR PLANNING PERMISSION

Application No: 2016/1160/HYB Hybrid planning application for the erection of student accommodation (Phase 12) and a new University library, comprising; i) in full, the erection of three and four storey buildings to provide 250 no. student bedrooms and communal facilities, together with associated hard and soft landscaping and external works, and; ii) in outline, a library building with associated hard and soft landscaping, open space, access routes and external works, with all matters reserved at Edge Hill University, St Helens Road, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2016/1163/FUL Material change of use of land for stationing of caravans for residential occupation with associated development (retain existing hard standing, septic tank and toilet block, new shared day room, new package treatment plant)- part retrospective at Pool Hey Caravan Park, Pool Hey Lane, Scarisbrick.
This does not (or may not) accord with the development plan.

APPLICATION(S) AFFECTING A CONSERVATION AREA / LISTED BUILDING

Application No: 2016/1136/FUL Conversion of derelict grade II* water tower into single family dwelling (to include detached garage) at Water Tower, Tower Hill, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2016/1137/LBC Listed Building Consent - Conversion of derelict grade II* water tower into single family dwelling (to include detached garage) at Water Tower, Tower Hill, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2016/1139/COU Proposed change of use of part of ground floor, all of first and second floors to house in multiple occupancy. Retention of ground floor shop unit along with single storey rear extension at 23 Aughton Street, Ormskirk.
Application No: 2016/1143/FUL Stable block comprised of 4 stables and hay store. 50 x 25 metre riding arena (personal use to the dwelling house) at Ottershead Farm, Dicks Lane, Lathom.
Application No: 2016/1210/FUL Variation of planning conditions 2 & 7 to 2014/1354/FUL to include retention of double garage, repositioning of rooflights, new upper floor window on south elevation, and new door on west elevation at 61 Becconsall Lane, Hesketh Bank.

The applications are available for viewing on the Council's website www.westlancs.gov.uk/planning. Alternatively, the application can be viewed during normal office hours at 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk and at 1st Floor, The Concourse, Skelmersdale. If you wish to comment on the proposal you can do so via the Council's web site, by e.mail to plan.apps@westlancs.gov.uk or in writing to Development and Regeneration Services, 52 Derby Street, Ormskirk, but these must be received within 21 days of the date of this notice quoting the application no. Any comments made will be available for public inspection.

Applications for Minor Commercial and Householder Development
In the event that an appeal is made against a decision of the Council to refuse to grant planning permission for the proposed development, and that appeal then proceeds by way of the expedited procedure under the written representations procedure, any representations made to the Council about an application will be passed to the Secretary of State and there will be no opportunity to make further representations.

John R Harrison DipEnvP., MRTPI Director of Development and Regeneration
Dated: 14th December 2016 PDNOT927

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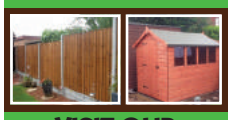
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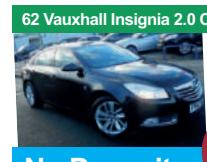

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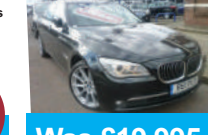

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I DON'T KNOW who or what Matt Terry is but apparently there's a fairly sizeable chance he'll be this year's Christmas number one. I haven't watched any of The X Factor this year, so I can't be sure.

But what I can say from the few occasions I've been forced to sit through a couple of millionaires giving pop starlets a helping hand is that the vast majority of it isn't about the one squeaky-throated siren who ends up clogging up the airwaves over the festive season; it's about the thousands of out-of-tune crooners who miss out along the way.

It's a bit like that with old cars. For every episode of Wheeler Dealers where an elderly Jaguar is nursed out of a garage, spruced up in the blink of an eye and then sold on for a song, there are countless ordinary people who do up wonderful cars and lose a fortune.

I should know, because I'm on the verge of becoming one of them.

Regular readers will know that over the last six years I've taken an MGB GT that's older than I am under my wing. I've tucked it up at night and read it bedtime stories, taken it on days out to see all the other classic cars – and defended it relentlessly when cruel taunts about its shabby paintwork are chucked its way.

But the cold, hard reality of classic car economics hit home the other day when I was quoted the price of an MX-5 to do my ailing MG up. The price of a brand new MX-5, that is.

Depressed

Any thoughts of X Factor-style success by transforming the old girl into a catwalk stunner pretty much evaporated over a depressing cup of tea in the garage waiting room.

But then the classic car world is full of stories like that. A friend of mine bought a Hillman Minx a few weeks ago – and having discovered it'll cost several times the car's value to remedy its rusty undersides is now not entirely sure what to do with his crusty bit of British heritage.

Equally, I've seen plenty of examples of people who've taken the plunge, with the end result being a £7000 Ford Anglia that's just had £15,000's worth of work done on it.

All these people do it for the same reason that aspiring chart-toppers venture into Simon Cowell's lair for a quick course of put-me-downs and hard truths; they do it because they love it.

I respect whoever it is in Southport who's just taken on the very poorly looking Rover P5 a few doors down from mine, because they're resurrecting history when no one else will, in the face of almost certainly losing a small fortune.

Power to 'em, I reckon.

Not that I could do it, of course.

Which is why I'll probably replacing my MGB with a Blue Peter-esque one someone did earlier.

At least that'll keep my attention off The X Factor for another year…

David Simister is editor of Classic Car Weekly

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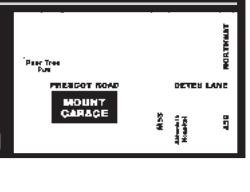

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Burscough off target again in home defeat

Burscough 0
Ossett Albion 1

Jake Ellam had given Ossett the lead just before the half hour mark before the Linnets were reduced to ten men when Hill was given his marching orders.

Despite the man dis advantage, Bursough managed to contain Ossett and make sure they didn't add to their lead, but crucially they couldn't score themselves and lost the game 1-0.

Next up for Burscough is an away trip on Saturday to Farsley Celtic.

Powell steps down as Linnets manager

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

BURSCOUGH have parted company with manager Dave Powell following Saturday's home defeat against Ossett Town after a disagreement over football policy.

Although the Linnets sit bottom of the Evo-Stik Division One North, things have been looking up at Victoria Park over recent weeks.

They had lost the previous two home games against Ossett and Clitheroe 1-0 but both of those sides are chasing promotion and were expected to be difficult games.

However the previous Saturday Burscough were 1-0 winners at Radcliffe Borough, prompting Powell to say "it seems like we have turned the corner."

A meeting took place between Burscough Director of Football Dave Sutton and Powell to discuss playing tactics and coaching methods before the Ossett Town game.

This was continued after the match at which it was decided to end Powell's period in the hot seat.

Powell took over just before the season started with Burscough in quite a perilous situation.

Manager Mark Beesley had departed as had most of the players. Even so, Powell got a team together and he guided Burscough through two rounds of the FA Cup, but league form was sporadic.

Powell said: "I acknowledge that a club like Burscough should not be in the current league spot and for which I will hold my hand up. I leave with no malice towards the club."

Dave Sutton is now looking to the future and said: "It is important that we have stability and the other members of the coaching staff have indicated that they are staying, including Keith McCann and Simon Hardman.

"We have no plans to bring in anybody new. We will be having a meeting with the players and will take it from there. I would like to thank Dave for the valuable work he has done and naturally wish him well."

Dave Powell

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Hard fought point earned at Buxton

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

Buxton 0
Skelmersdale United 0

SKELMERSDALE remain without an away win in the league but will wonder how they didn't come away with an unlikely three points against high-flying Buxton.

Although the home side missed a late penalty, it was Skelmersdale who had the better of the chances in the game.

After only12 minutes they had nearly scored, had a penalty turned down and had left the home crossbar rocking.

So they clearly had no respect for Buxton's home record of not losing a match all season.

In the 8th minute Tom Ince slipped Chris Almond through, he rounded home goalkeeper Jan Budtz, but from a tight angle could only find the side netting.

A minute later, Luke Wall looked to get onto a Shaun Holden cross and was flattened by a push in the back, but no penalty was given.

Then in the 12th minute Wall picked up the ball on the right and cut across the front of the home defence, he then thundered a shot from 20 yards that thumped against the crossbar, leaving it visibly moving afterwards.

Buxton struggled to break down Skelmersdale's defence and the only save goalkeeper Martin Fearon had to make was from a fairly weak header.

The early part of the second-half was close but again it was noticeable that Buxton weren't making much in the way of chances against Skelmersdale's stubborn defence.

The game livened up just before the hour mark, Almond pulled the ball back but Ince fired over the crossbar, then down the other end Peter Wylie pulled off a magnificently timed tackle to keep out Bradley Grayson as he had the goal at his mercy.

In the 81st minute all Skelmersdale's nightmare's looked to be coming true, Buxton won a penalty.

Alastair Taylor chased a high ball into the box with Holden immediately behind him, Taylor stopped suddenly, Holden crashed into him and the referee pointed to the spot.

Skelmersdale's frustration turned to joy as Grayson blasted the penalty kick both high and wide for one of the worst attempts you are likely to see all season.

The game entered four minutes added time, Buxton pressed but again Skelmersdale held firm and earned a point.

Skem face tough test against table-toppers

Report by **Neil Leatherbarrow**

SKELMERSDALE United are set to host table-toppers Rushall Olympic this Saturday.

Striker Max Hazeldine returns from a two game suspension and after the way Skem pushed Rushall so close on their trip down to play the Midlands club in early November, there is hope they can get a result.

Fitness wise, Skem report a clean bill of health after they did Rushall a favour last Saturday by drawing 0-0 away at second-placed Buxton, in a game the visitors came very close to winning.

This weekend will see most Everton and Liverpool supporters with a blank Saturday as they await the Merseyside derby on Monday night, so Skem officials are hoping for a healthy turnout of support.

If Reds and Blues supporters bring along their season ticket, entry comes at a reduced cost of £5.

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